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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Urayqat Comments on Cairo Meetings

JN2410192394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Oct 94

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with Israel, by radio correspondent Ahmad Zaki in Cairo on 24 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Zaki] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation. The Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Dr. Nabil Sha'th, and you attended the meeting. Have you reached an agreement on resolving the pending issues, particularly the issue of lifting the security cordon on the Palestinian territory?

['Urayqat] In fact, the repressive Israeli measures, particularly the unilateral closure of the Gaza Strip and the West bank, were the most important subjects raised in the Liaison Committee's meeting yesterday. We officially asked the Israeli Government not to adopt such repressive measures again because they are contrary to all that came in the agreements signed between the PLO and Israel—namely, the Declaration of Principles, the Cairo accord, and other agreements.

We said if the Israeli Government seriously wanted to speak about separating both people we would welcome this. However, this requires immediate launching of talks on the final stage so as to end the occupation, dismantle settlements, and establish the independent state. However, imposing unilateral closure with the continuation of occupation falls within the framework of the collective punishment and economic suffocation, thereby endangering the peace process.

The Israeli side said this cordon will be lifted in the next few days. We asked the Israeli Government not to repeat such measures because it has no right at all to close international crossings or safe corridors between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We agreed that the Israeli Government should not take any measures that would harm the Palestinian people, economy, or development.

[Zaki] Dr. Sa'ib, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the security cordon is temporary, however Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said that the closure will continue for a long time. What is your comment on these statements in light of the Israeli practices?

['Urayqat] We cannot control the statements of Israeli officials. We are used to such contradictory Israeli statements. Peres says something, another minister says something else, Rabin says something else, and the military says something else. We agreed here that the closure will be lifted within the next few days. We also agreed that such practices will not be repeated because they are contrary to the basic principles of the peace process. The Declaration of Principles frankly calls for free movement between the West Bank and Gaza and for free international movements. As we said, if the Israeli Government wants to separate the two people, we must immediately launch talks on the final stage, end the occupation, and dismantle the settlements so as to establish our state and open our crossings and international borders for other states.

[Zaki] Did Egypt exert pressures on the Israeli delegation to rectify its practices and implement the Oslo accord?

['Urayqat] Egyptian diplomacy played—through President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa—an important role in presenting these stands. We hope we will see the positive results of the Egyptian intervention in the next hours or days. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty Annexes

JN2410143894 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 18

["Text of the five annexes" to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt]

ANNEX I (a)

JORDAN-ISRAEL INTERNATIONAL

BOUNDARY

DELIMITATION AND DEMARCATION

1. It is agreed that, in accordance with Article 3 of the Treaty, the international boundary between the two states consists of the following sectors:

A. The Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers
B. The Dead Sea
C. The Wadi al-'Arabah/'Emeq Ha'Arava
D. The Gulf of Aqaba

2. The boundary is delimited as follows:

A. Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers:

1. The boundary line shall follow the middle of the main course of the flow of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers.

2. The boundary line shall follow natural changes (accretion or erosion) the course of the rivers unless otherwise agreed. Artificial changes in or of the course of the rivers shall not affect the location of the boundary unless otherwise agreed. No artificial changes may be made except by agreement between both parties.

3. In the event of a future sudden natural change in or of the course of the rivers (avulsion or cutting of new bed) the Joint Boundary Commission (Article 3 below) shall meet as soon as possible, to decide on necessary measures, which may include physical restoration of the prior location of the river course.

4. The boundary line in the two rivers is shown on the 1/10,000 orthophoto maps dated 1994 attached hereto [Annex 1 (a) Appendix (i)]

5. Adjustment to the boundary line in any of the rivers due to natural changes (accretion or erosion) shall be carried out whenever it is deemed necessary by the Boundary Commission or once every five years.

6. The lines defining the special al-Baqurah-Naharayim area are shown on the 1:10,000 orthophoto map attached-hereto.

[Annex 1 (b) Appendix (ii)]

7. The orthophoto maps and image maps showing the line separating Jordan from the West Bank shall have that line indicated in a different presentation and the legend shall carry on it the following disclaimer:

"This line is the administrative boundary between Jordan and the territory which came under Israeli military government control in 1967. Any treatment of this line shall be without prejudice to the status of that territory."

B. Dead Sea and Salt Pans

The boundary line is shown on the 1/50,000 image maps (2 sheets) attached hereto. [Annex 1 (a) Appendix (i)] The list of geographic and Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates of this boundary line shall be based on Israel Jordan Boundary Datum (IJBD 1994) and, when completed and agreed upon by both parties, the list of coordinates shall be binding and take precedence over the maps as to the location of the boundary line in the Dead Sea and the salt pans.

C. The Wadi al-'Arabah/'Emeq Ha'Arava

1. The boundary line is shown on the 1/20,000 orthophoto maps (9 sheets) attached hereto [Annex 1 (a) Appendix (i)].

2. The land boundary shall be demarcated, under a joint boundary demarcation procedure, by boundary pillars which will be jointly located, erected, measured and documented on the basis of the boundary shown in the 1/20,000 orthophoto maps referred to in Article 2-C-(1) above. Between each two adjacent boundary pillars the boundary line shall follow a straight line.

3. The boundary pillars shall be defined in a list of geographic and UTM coordinates based on a joint boundary datum (IJBD 94) to be agreed upon by the Joint Team of Experts appointed by the two parties (hereinafter the JTE) using joint Global Positioning System (GPS) Measurements. The list of coordinates shall be prepared, signed and approved by both parties as soon as possible and no later than nine months after this Treaty enters into force and shall become part of this annex. This list of geographic and UTM coordinates when completed and agreed upon by both parties shall be binding and shall take precedence over the maps as to the location of the boundary line of this sector.

4. The boundary pillars shall be maintained by both parties in accordance with a procedure to be agreed upon. The coordinates in Article 2-C-(3) above shall be used to reconstruct boundary pillars in case they are damaged, destroyed, or displaced.

5. The line defining the Zofar area is shown on the 1/20,000 Wadi al-Arabah/Emeq Ha'Arava orthophoto map attached hereto [Annex I (c) Appendix (iii)].

D. The Gulf of Aqaba

The Parties shall act in accordance with Article 3.7 of the Treaty.

3. Joint boundary commission

A. For the purpose of the implementation of this annex, the parties will establish a joint boundary commission comprised of three members from each country.

B. The commission will, with the approval of the respective governments, specify its work procedures, the frequency of its meetings, and the details of its scope of work. The commission may invite experts and or advisers as may be required.

C. The commission may form, as it deems necessary, specialized teams or committees and assign to them technical tasks.

ANNEX I(b)

THE AL-BAQURAH/NAHARAYIM AREA

1. The two Parties agree that a special regime will apply to the al-Baqurah/Naharayim area ("the area") on a temporary basis, as set out in this Annex. For the purpose of this Annex, the area is detailed on the attached map [Annex I(a) Appendix (iii)].

2. Recognising that in the area which is under Jordan's sovereignty with Israel private land ownership rights and propriety interests ("land owners") in the land comprising the area ("the land") Jordan undertakes:

a. To grant without charge unimpeded freedom of entry to, exit from land usage and movement within the area to the landowners and to their invitees or employees and to allow the land-owners freely to dispose of their land in accordance with applicable Jordanian law;

b. Not to apply its customs or immigration legislation to land- owners, their invitees or employees crossing from Israel directly, to the area for the purpose of gaining access to the land for agricultural, touristic or any agreed purposes;

c. Not to impose discriminatory taxes or charges with regard to the land or activities within the area;

d. To take all necessary measures to protect and prevent harassment of or harm to any person entering the area under this Annex;

e. To permit with the minimum of formalities uniformed officers of the Israeli police force access to the area for the purpose of investigating crime or dealing with other incidents solely involving the landowners, their invitees or employees.

Recognizing Jordanian sovereignty over the area, Israel undertakes:

a. Not to carry out or allow to be carried out in the area activities prejudicial to the peace or security of Jordan.

b. Not to allow any person entering the area under this Annex (other than the uniformed officers referred to in paragraph 2 (e) of this Annex) to carry weapons of any kind in the area; unless authorized by the licensing authorities in Jordan after being processed by the liaison committee referred to in article 8 of this Annex.

c. Not to allow the dumping of wastes from outside the area into the area.

4. a. Subject to this Annex, Jordanian law will apply to this area.

b. Israeli law applying to the extra territorial activities of Israel may be applied to Israelis and their activities in the area, and Israel may take measures in the area to enforce such laws.

c. Having regard to this Annex, Jordan will not apply its criminal laws to activities in the area which involve only Israeli nationals.

5. In the event of any joint projects to be agreed and developed by the parties in the area the terms of this Annex may be altered for the purpose of the joint project by agreement between the parties at any time. One of the options to be discussed in the context of the joint projects would be the establishment of a free trade zone.

6. Without prejudice to private rights of ownership of land within the area, this Annex will remain in force for 25 years, and shall be renewed automatically for the same period, unless one year prior notice of termination is given by either party, in which case, at the request of either party, consultations shall be entered into.

7. In addition to the requirement referred to in article 4 (a) of this Annex, the acquisition of the land in the area by persons who are not Israeli citizens shall take place only with the prior approval of Jordan.

8. A Jordanian-Israeli Liaison Committee is hereby established in order to deal with all matters arising under this Annex.

ANNEX I (C)

THE ZOFAR AREA

1. The two parties agree that a special regime will apply to the Zofar area ("the area") on a temporary basis, as set out in this Annex. For the purpose of this Annex the area is detailed on the attached map [Annex I Appendix (iii)]

2. Recognizing that in the area which is under Jordan's sovereignty with Israeli private land use rights ("land users") in the land comprising the area ("the land") Jordan undertakes:

a. To grant without charge unimpeded freedom of entry to, exit from and land usage and movement within the area to the land-users and to their invitees or employees and to allow the land-users freely to dispose of their rights in the usage of the land in accordance with applicable Jordanian laws.

b. Not to apply its customs or immigration legislation to land-users, their invitees or employees crossing from Israel directly to the area for the purpose of gaining access to the land for agricultural or and agreed purpose.

c. Not to impose discriminatory taxes or charges with regard to the land or activities within the are

d. To take all necessary measures to protect and prevent harassment of or harm to any person entering the area under this Annex;

e. To permit with the minimum of formality, uniformed officers of the Israeli police force access to the area for the purpose of investigating crime of dealing with other incidents solely involving the land-users, their invitees or employees.

3. Recognizing Jordanian sovereignty over the area, Israel undertakes;

a. Not to carry out or allow to be carried out in the area activities prejudicial to the peace or security of Jordan;

b. Not to allow any person entering the area under this Annex (other than the uniformed officers referred to in paragraph 2(e) of this Annex) to carry weapons of any kind in the area: unless authorized by the licensing authorities in Jordan after being processed by the liaison committee refered to in Article 8 of this Annex.

c. Not to allow the dumping of wastes from outside the area into the area.

4. a. Subject to this Annex, Jordanian law will apply to this area.

b. Israeli law applying to the extra territorial activities of Israel may be applied to Israelis and their activities in the area, and Israel may take measures in the area to enforce such laws.

c. Having regard to this Annex, Jordan will not apply its criminal laws to activities in the area which involve only Israeli nationals.

5. In the event of any joint projects to be agreed and developed by the parties in the area the terms of this Annex may be altered for the purpose of the joint project by agreement between the parties at any time.

6. Without prejudice to private rights of use of land with the area, this Annex will remain in force for 25 years, and shall be renewed automatically for the same period unless one year notice of termination is given by either party, in which case, at the request of either party, consultations shall be entered into.

7. In addition to the requirement referred to in Article 4 (a) of this Annex, the acquisition of the land in the area by persons who are not israeli citizens shall take place only with the prior approval of Jordan.

8. A Jordanian-Israeli Liaison Committee is hereby established in order to deal with all matters arising under this Annex. [passage omitted]

ANNEX III

COMBATING CRIME AND DRUGS

Pursuant to Artice 12 of the Treaty of Peace, Jordan and Israel have decided to cooperate in the following fields:

A. Cooperation on Combating Dangerous Drugs

1. The two Parties shall cooperate in fighting illicit drugs according to the legal system of their countries.

2. The two Parties shall take all necessary measures to prevent drug smuggling between the two countries.

3. The two Parties shall exchange information regarding drug trafficking and dealers' activities concerning the two countries.

4. Information given by one of the Parties may not be shared with a third party without the consent of the party which provided the information.

5. The two Parties shall exchange and share the experience of fighting against drugs including anti-drug education, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation programmes, technical means and methods of concealment.

6. In order to identify the persons involved in drug activities, the two Parties shall facilitate controlled deliveries of drugs between the two countries according to their laws.

7. Drug law enforcement officers from both sides shall meet periodically to coordinate efforts pertaining to drug problems concerning the two countries.

8. The two Parties shall maintain open channels of communication (eg fax, telephone, telex) for liaison purposes in drug matters concerning the two countries.

9. The two parties shall cooperate with the multilateral forums which deal with drug issues in the area.

10. The two Parties shall cooperate in investigating procedures necessary for collecting evidence and indictment in cases against drug dealers which concern either or both countries.

11. The two Parties shall exchange information regarding statistics on the type and number of drug crimes committed in each country including detailed information regarding suspected and convicted persons involved in these cases.

12. The two Parties shall exchange all relevant information regarding the narcotic drug producing laboratories if revealed in either of the two countries, including structure working methods and technical features of the laboratory as well as the type and trade- mark of the product.

13. The cooperation described in this document will be carried out in accordance with the legal system of the two countries.

B. Crime:

- Exchange of information concerning all aspects of smuggling, theft (including art objects, vehicles, national treasures, antiquities and documents), etc.
- Apprehension of criminals and exchange of information including transmission of evidence in order to carry out judicial procedures in each of the two countries, subject to the relevant treaties and regulations.

General Cooperation:

- Exchange of information regarding technical matters.
- Joint police research projects on topics of mutual interest to both countries.

Additional Issues:

- Rescue
- Unintentional border crossing, fugitives from justice.
- Notification of detention of nationals of the other country.
- Establishment of a liaison mechanism between the sides.

C. Cooperation on forensic science

1. The two parties shall cooperate on the subjects of criminal identification and forensic science.

2. The two parties shall share and exchange professional experience and training programmes, inter alia:

a. Use of field kits for preliminary examinations.
b. Analysis of illicit drugs.
c. Analysis of poisons and toxic materials.
d. forensic biology and DNA examinations.
e. Tool Marks and materials examinations.
f. Questioned documents examinations.
g. Analysis of voice prints.
h. Analysis of fire arms.
i. Detection of latent fingerprints.
j. Analysis of explosive traces.
k. Examination for person in laboratories.
l. Tool marks and materials examinations.
m. Identification of victims in mass disasters.

n. Research and development in forensic science.

ANNEX IV

ENVIRONMENT

Jordan and Israel acknowledge the importance of the ecology of the region, its high environmental sensitivity and the need to protect environment and prevent danger and risk for the health and well-being of the region's population. They both recognise the need for conservation of natural resources, protection of biodiversity and the imperative of attaining economic growth based on sustainable development principles.

In light of the above both Parties agree to cooperate in matters relating to environmental protection in general and to those that may mutually effect them. Areas of such cooperation are detailed as follows:

A. Taking the necessary steps both jointly and individually to prevent damage and risks to the environment in general, and in particular those that may affect people, natural resources and environmental assets in the two countries respectively.

B. Taking the necessary steps by both countries to co-operate in the following areas:

- Environmental planning and management including conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and exchanging of data on projects possessing potential impact on their respective environments.
- Environmental legislation, regulations, standards and enforcement thereof
- Research and applied technology.
- Emergency response, monitoring, related notification procedures and control of damages.
- Code of conduct through regional charters.

This may be achieved through the establishment of joint modalities and mechanisms of cooperation to ensure that exchange of information communication and coordination regarding matters and activities of mutual environmental concern between their environmental administrations and experts.

C. Environmental subjects to be addressed:

1. Protection of nature, natural resources and biodiversity, including cooperation in planning and management of adjacent protected areas along the common border, and protection of endangered species and migratory birds.

2. Air quality control, including general standards, criteria and all types of mandate hazardous radiations, fumes and gases.

3. Marine environment and coastal resources management.

4. Waste management including hazardous wastes.

5. Pest control including house flies and mosquitoes and prevention of diseases transferred by pests, such as malaria and leishmaniosis.

6. Abatement and control of Pollution contamination and other man-made hazards to the environment.

7. Desertification: Combating desertification, exchange of information and research knowledge, and the implementation of suitable technologies.

8. Public awareness and environmental education encouraging the exchange of knowledge, information, study materials, education programmes and training through public actions and awareness campaigns.

9. Noise: reducing noise pollution through regulation, licensing and enforcement based on agreed standards.

10. Potential co-operation in case of natural disasters.

D. In accordance with the above, the two Parties agree to co-operate in activities and projects in the following geographical areas:

I. The Gulf of Aqaba

I.1. The Marine environment:

- Natural resources
- Coastal reef protection
- Marine pollution:

—Marine sources: eg oil spills, littering and waste disposal and other
—Land-based sources: eg liquid waste, solid waste and littering
—Abatement including monitoring and emergency response actions.

I.2. Coastal Zone Management—The littoral

- Natural reserves and protected areas
- Environmental protection of water resources
- Liquid waste
- Solid waste
- Tourism and recreational activities
- Ports
- Transport
- Industry and power generation
- Air quality
- Hazardous materials
- Environmental assessments.

II. The Rift Valley

II.1. The Jordan River

Jordan and Israel agree to cooperate along the common boundaries in the following aspects:

- Ecological rehabilitation of the Jordan River
- Environmental protection of water resources to ensure optimal water quality, at reasonably usable standards.
- Agricultural pollution control

- Liquid waste
- Pest control
- Nature reserves and protected areas
- Tourism and Historical heritage.

II.2. The Dead Sea

- Nature reserves and protected areas
- Pest Control
- Environmental protection of water resources
- Industrial pollution control
- Tourism and historical heritage.

II.3. Area from Red Sea to the Dead Sea

- Environmental protection of water resources
- Nature reserves and protected area
- Pest Control
- Tourism and historical heritage
- Agricultural pollution control.

ANNEX V

INTERIM MEASURES

BORDER CROSSING POINTS PROCEDURES

BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL

In pursuance of Article 28 of the Treaty of Peace, the Parties have agreed as follows:

1. The Crossing Points between Jordan and Israel shall be opened in both directions for Jordanians, Israelis and third countries' nationals.

2. Procedures of crossing shall be in accordance of the regulations in both countries.

3. Both Parties shall mutually recognise passports of the other Party and the stamps and visas affixed by the other Party on passports.

The stamps on the passports will include English and Arabic / Hebrew, date of the crossing, name of the country which stamps the document, and the name of the crossing point.

4. The crossing points shall be opened 5 days a week from Sunday to Thursday, during all the year, except for the first day Al Hijrah calendar and Yom Kippur, the dates of these two holy days shall be communicated to the other side beforehand.

5. The crossing points shall be opened from 08:00 to 18:30 hours.

6. Each Party has the right to refuse entry to a person, in accordance with its regulations. In this case, each Party undertakes to accept this person back into the country, without delay, according to international practices.

7. Each Party shall apply its customs regulations.

8. Each Party shall provide the passengers with the A.17 international immigration form of the other Party, before crossing.

9. Direct lines, both telephonic and fax, shall be established between the authorities of both sides of the crossing points, in order to provide solutions to any problem.

10. The passenger's passport should be valid for a least six months after the date of the crossing, in accordance with the international practices.

11. Each Party shall provide the other with a list of the countries whose citizens are exempted from visa requirements.

12. These arrangements shall go into effect as from the next day of the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Peace.

13. Within a period of up to three months from the date stated in paragraph 12 above, interim arrangements regulating passage of persons through the Crossing Points, and Visa procedures shall be applied. Both Parties may shorten this period by mutual agreement.

14. During the interim period mentioned in paragraph 13 above, visas to Jordanian and Israeli citizens shall be granted as agreed between the Parties.

15. Until the mutual opening of the embassies in the two countries, Jordanian and Israeli nationals shall be granted the necessary visas through the following procedures:

a. The tourist should apply for the visa through a travel agent in his country, who shall convey the application to his counterpart travel agent in the other country. This correspondent travel shall apply for visa to the Ministry of Interior in his country. The visa shall then be collected at the crossing point with a copy to be sent to the travel agent, and another one shall be delivered to the terminals on each side.

Upon the opening of the embassies in both countries, the Parties will adjust the above procedures as necessary.

b. Visitors such as businessmen, scientists, official and journalists, shall contact the respective counterpart who in turn shall apply on their behalf to the Ministry of Interior as above. The visa shall then be collected at the crossing point and a copy shall be delivered to the terminals on each side.

Upon the opening of the Embassies in both countries, these persons will apply for visas through the respective Embassies.

16. a. Visa fees shall be collected on a reciprocal basis.

b. Terminal fees shall be collected in accordance with applicable regulations in both countries.

17. This system shall be revised after two months and a half from the date mentioned in paragraph 12 above, in accordance with any relevant bilateral agreements to be signed as an outcome of the Treaty of Peace.

18. The existing arrangements for Moslem Israeli nationals who cross into Jordan in transit to Saudi Arabia for Moslem Pilgrimage purpose, shall continue to be applicable.

19. Transportation for Jordanian and Israeli tourists between terminals of each of the Crossing Points shall be by shuttle bus, and the tourist vehicles provided by travel agents of the visited country shall carry them from its terminal to their final destinations.

20. The Parties agreed that matters relating to persons entering one of the two countries by one crossing point, harbors or airports, and wishing to exit that country also through other border crossing points, harbors or airports shall be discussed during the interim period mentioned in paragraph 13 above.

21. The Parties agreed that matters relating to the passage of vehicles through the Crossing points shall be discussed during the interim period mentioned in paragraph 13 above, taking into account the transportation, tourism and any other relevant bilateral agreements, to be concluded by the Parties.

22. Teams of the two Parties shall monitor the implementation of this Annex.

Islamic Affairs

Iraqi Trade Minister Addresses ICO in Istanbul

NC2410224694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Istanbul, 24 Oct (INA)—Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has stated that the United States and Britain are carrying out the most barbaric operation against the Iraqi people by continuing the food and medicine blockade and preventing the Iraqi people from having access to the necessities of a civilized life.

In a speech he delivered this evening during the ministerial meeting of the permanent committee on economic and trade cooperation of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] being held in Istanbul, he said the imposition of a complete blockade on Iraq and the freezing of its funds and other assets in foreign banks at the instigation of the United States and Britain have inflicted great losses on the Iraqi people and have led to a deteriorating food and health situation in Iraq.

He said: The meeting of the current session is being held in circumstances in which dangers threatening the desires and aspirations of people, especially the people of the Islamic world, are increasing. The policy of internationalizing problems and attempting to prescribe solutions for them without consulting the parties concerned has led to the aggravation of these problems. What is currently happening in the Islamic and Arab arenas under the umbrella of so-called international legitimacy is absolute proof of the negative effects of the internationalization policy, which is preventing states from exercising their sovereignty on the pretext of UN resolutions.

Referring to the duplicity characterizing the UN resolutions, he said the inescapable fact is that these problems cannot be solved without taking into consideration the national and regional desires of the states concerned and their peoples.

Referring to the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the blockade, the minister said that Iraqi citizens now only get 30 percent of their daily food requirements while, during the past fours years of the blockade, they used to get 50 percent.

Referring to the health situation, he noted the great suffering and the grave shortage of medicine, especially life-saving medicines, resulting in the reappearance of contagious diseases which Iraq had eliminated for good a few years ago. He also referred to an increasing death rate in the various age brackets, especially children less than five years old, because of the grave shortage of medicine and due to malnutrition.

The minister also referred to the U.S. and British Governments' attempts to prevent the financing of rice, wheat, and sugar imports by putting up frozen assets as collateral. He said these attempts contravene the Security Council's resolutions in this regard, noting that the United Nations approved similar deals last year. He said that these measures prove clearly and unequivocally that the United States and Britain are determined to continue their aggressive and inhumane policy toward Iraq and to starve its people and deprive them of the right to live.

The minister called on the participants in the meeting and, through them, on the international community to undertake efforts to lift the blockade on the Iraqi Muslim people, especially as Iraq has fulfilled its obligations under Article 22 of UN Security Resolution 687 for the year 1991. He said that if the unjust blockade continues, it will certainly lead to the death of more of the sons of the patient and steadfast Iraqi people.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 18 Oct

NC2410190694

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items the 18 October edition of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Ulema Say Jinn Can Dwell in the Human Body

2. Intellectuals, Ulema, Preachers Denounce Attack on Writer
3. Shaykh al-Sha'rawi Goes to London for Medical Treatment
4. Al-Azhar Shaykh Says Female Circumcision Prophetic Tradition
5. Ministry Issues Permits for Private Mosque Imams, Preachers
6. Muslim Scholars Assail Secularists, Note Islam's Standing
7. Seminar Warns Against Dangers of Cultural Invasion

ULEMA SAY JINN CAN DWELL HUMAN BODY

In a controversy over varying views on whether jinn can inhabit the human body, a 110-word report on page 1 says some ulema affirm that a jinn's habitation of the human body is possible. They add that the body of any person who forgets God becomes "fertile ground for invasion by a jinn."

INTELLECTUALS, ULEMA, PREACHERS DENOUNCE ATTACK ON WRITER

A 100-word report on page 1 says that intellectuals, ulema, and preachers have voiced their strong denunciation of the attack on prominent writer, Najib Mahfuz. The report adds: "The ulema said this attack gave the enemies of Islam a present on a silver platter to defame Islam and Egypt in the most crucial stage of the history of our nation, which is suffering various conspiracies."

SHAYKH AL-SHA'RAWI GOES TO LONDON FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

A very brief report on page 1 says the prominent Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi left Cairo for London "yesterday" to pursue the medical treatment he began several months ago.

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH SAYS FEMALE CIRCUMCISION PROPHETIC TRADITION

A 100-word report on female circumcision on the same page reads: "His Eminence the Grand Imam, al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq has announced that the circumcision of females is a tradition inherited from the prophet, not an old custom. He said the prophet called for the circumcision of the female as an act that dignifies her and that it is one of the natural characteristics which Islam has called for. He went on to say that the prophetic guidance on circumcision aimed to control woman's sexual sensations."

The report says that the "Jurisprudence Committee of the Islamic Research Center" has discussed the religious decrees issued by al-Azhar ulema and muftis and stressed that circumcision dignifies women.

AWQAF MINISTRY ISSUES PERMITS FOR PRIVATE MOSQUE IMAMS, PREACHERS

A 50-word report on page 2 indicates that the Awqaf Ministry has prepared 22,000 permits for imams and preachers to assume the podium in implementation of the ministry's plan not to allow anyone to preach without a permit.

MUSLIM SCHOLARS ASSAIL SECULARISTS, NOTE ISLAM'S STANDING

Page 3 features an approximately 300-word report on speeches delivered at a conference on liberties and civil society. It says that Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali has assailed the secularists who "took advantage of Islam's freedom and tolerance" to attack Islam and affront its ulema. Al-Ghazali described them as "the supporters of the cultural invasion of our countries and said their task is to promote religious chaos and cause confusion and skepticism among Muslims, the latest example of which was to cast doubt on the veil's religious legality." He noted that Islam has outdone all man-made charters on human dights. Al-Ghazali also rejected women's "humiliating" standing in "some Islamic countries in which the ulema have misinterpreted Koranic verses and prophetic adages on women. They imposed restrictions on women to the point that they banned them from driving cars and from talking even about the promotion of virtue and suppression of vice."

The report says Dr. Muhammad Salim al-'Awwa has clarified that Islam has guaranteed pluralism in every aspect as long as it does not violate Islamic principles. He adds that the shari'ah has defined general guidelines and principles for Muslims to follow in running their lives.

SEMINAR WARNS AGAINST DANGERS OF CULTURAL INVASION

'AQIDATI files an approximately 1,300 word report on page 10 about a seminar held on modern communications media and their effect on Islamic societies. It says Muslim ulema and media officials have warned of "the dangers of the cultural invasion suffered by the Islamic nation through satellites and international mass media that are controlled by non-Muslims." The report adds that the ulema and media officials have stressed the need for Islamic countries to unite in the face of the "negative effects of this invasion that aims to obliterate our Islamic cultural identity."

Dr. Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, vice chairman of al-Azhar University, notes that the cultural invasion is not limited to the West's acts "toward us" only through the media. He says the invasion also involves "our kinsfolk who represent the West and who are Muslims in name and are most active in seeking to distort Islam's image and encroach upon its leading figures under the slogan of freedom of expression."

Dr. Muhammad Balghawat from Morocco proposes the establishment of an Islamic media institution to produce attractive material in line with Islamic values.

Al-Azhar University Vice President Ja'far 'Abd-al-Salam calls for devising "moral regulations" for satellite broadcasts beamed at all Islamic countries, most of which rely on "sexual obscenity as a means to attract viewers."

Palestinian Affairs

Mosad, CIA Said Planning To 'Liquidate' Hamas

JN2410193194 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] Bonn—AL-MAJD newspaper has learned that the Mosad, CIA, German intelligence, and European intelligence organs have stepped up their secret security contacts over the past few days to prepare the Arab climate psychologically and economically before launching an all-out security campaign to liquidate Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, and destroy its militant capability.

These intelligence organs believe they should launch this liquidation campaign to prevent Hamas in particular and the Islamists in general from destroying the current reconciliation and normalization process between the Arab states and Israel.

Following the Bi'r Nabala and Tel Aviv operations, these organs believe that Hamas still has many surprises, which may occur any time, particularly after it has recruited many young men and even Islamic academicians, who are ready to carry out suicide operations like the one in Tel Aviv or even larger and more serious than that.

AL-MAJD also learned that the German intelligence has recently sent its agents to mosques to identify moderate Muslims from extremists by using Muslim elements offered by some Arab embassies, particularly the Egyptian Embassy in the German capital.

The German intelligence also asked Arab academicians like Bassam Tibi to speak over German television to explain Islamic tolerance and Islam's peaceful nature and to launch a large-scale campaign against Islamic awakening, Arabism, and militant ideas.

Security Chief Foresees Further Hamas Operations

MM2410163594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salih Qallab: "Palestinian Police Commander Expects a New Hamas Operation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Palestinian Security Forces Commander Major General Nasr Yusuf does not rule out the possibility of Israel launching "special operations" against some Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip, and he also believes that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Squads will carry out new operations similar to the recent Tel Aviv operation in the next few days.

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his headquarters in Gaza, Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf said that the effects of the Israeli siege of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be "extremely bad for the peace process and the lives of the people in these areas."

He said that "the situation is getting worse every day," but he added that the general feeling in the Gaza Strip now is not in favor of Hamas and there is extreme resentment of the actions carried out by that movement, leading to more Israeli measures which in turn jeopardize people's lives and livelihood.

He said that "about 30,000 workers used to go to work in Israel every day," and that "the closure of the Strip and the fact that these people will not be able to go to work as before will be extremely detrimental to thousands of poor families."

Maj. Gen. Yusuf revealed that most of the Hamas members detained after Israeli soldier Nashon Wachsman's [kidnap] operation have now been released and that no more than 30 detainees were still being held in the prisons of the Palestinian Authority. He added: "And those will be released in stages within a few days."

He said that the arrest of Hamas members by the Palestinian security forces after the Nashon Wachsman operation was carried out in accordance with higher decisions made by the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. He added that the Palestinian security forces would not take any measure without orders and instructions from the political leadership.

Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf, who is also a Fatah Central Committee member, expressed displeasure at the statements made by some of that movement's officials at home and abroad condemning the campaign of Hamas arrestss. He said that "those brothers do not know the facts and are addressing matters emotionally without realizing that there is a plan to destroy the Palestinian autonomy and the PNA."

Answering the charge that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat passed information to the Israelis about the location of the kidnapped Israeli soldier, Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf said: "If we had had information about the whereabouts of that soldier and his kidnappers, we would not have searched every house in Gaza."

He added: "Israel attacked the building housing the abducted Israeli soldier and his kidnappers while we were continuing our search in Gaza. That confirms that we had no information on the whereabouts of that soldier and did not give the Israelis any information in that respect."

The Palestinian security commander said that Fatah's Central Committee might meet soon in Tunis or in al-'Arish in Egypt to discuss all these developments. He said that there was open access to that area from all directions.

In conclusion, Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf did not exclude the possibility that Israel might replace the workers from the Gaza Strip with workers from Jordan after the signing of

Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty next Wednesday. He added that the Israelis trusted the Jordanian security organs more than they did the Palestinian security organs, which have little experience and are still at the beginning of the road. [passage omitted]

Leaflets Issued in Aftermath of Tel Aviv Attack

TA2510095794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Oct 94 p A4

[Report by correspondent in the territories Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has warned that they will react with "full force" to any Israeli attempt to harm them. In a leaflet handed out to reporters yesterday, the movement warned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that Hamas men "love death more than Rabin and his troops love life." The leaflet asks: "Does Rabin think that we are intimidated by his instructions to the Mosad and Shin Bet to track down Hamas leaders and assassinate them?"

This is the first official leaflet the Hamas leadership has published since the suicide attack on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv. In the leaflet, Hamas officially assumes responsibility for the attack, saying that "jihad will continue and expand for as long as the occupation exists, aggression against our people continues, and Rabin the terrorist maintains his arrogant stubbornness and refuses to succumb to the Hamas demand to free Ahmad Yasin and the other prisoners of our nation."

The headline of the leaflet reads: "We shall not forget the criminal massacres committed by Zionism; the blood of our dead was not spilled in vain; our jihad will continue and escalate."

The leaflet sharply condemns Arab and Palestinian bodies—mainly the Palestinian Authority [PA]—for issuing statements condemning the attack, adding that the majority of Palestinians support the attack. The leaflet further says that Hamas has taken upon itself "to serve the criminal enemy with the same poisonous drink it served our people."

Despite the aggressive expressions it contains, in general the leaflet's spirit is apologetic. It makes an attempt to explain the Tel Aviv attack from a historic perspective. It lists past murders of Palestinians by Israelis, ending the list with the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs.

Sources in the territories yesterday noted that the leaflet was issued in East Jerusalem, and not in the Gaza Strip.

The PA yesterday warned against "suspicious elements who receive their instructions from abroad," and against the grave consequences their acts will have on the welfare and wellbeing of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. PLO Chairman 'Arafat last week used this expression to describe Hamas activists, and it is repeated several times in the leaflet published yesterday by the official spokesman of the Palestinian security forces in the autonomy areas.

This leaflet states that "the PA has been handling the issue in a quiet and restricted way which does not go beyond the boundaries of friendliness and national unity. At the same time, we stress that we are determined to strongly oppose those who harm the security of the homeland and its inhabitants, and who harm the welfare of the residents, mainly the sources of income of the masses. We are determined to provide employment for the workers and to move the wheels of the economic cart forward on national Palestinian land."

At the same time, the leaflet states that "the PA opens its arms to national dialogue in order to achieve national unity and mutual understanding."

For the past several days, the Fatah leadership in the territories has called on Hamas to launch a silent dialogue "far from the media spotlight."

Hamas Member Says Group To Continue Fighting

AU2410143394 Vienna PROFIL in German 24 Oct 94 p 57

[Interview with Ibrahim Goshe "of the fundamentalist Hamas movement" by M. Wrase in Amman; date not given: "The War Continues"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Wrase] A terrorist attack by your organization in central Tel Aviv has killed over 20 persons. The victims were only civilians. Do you condemn this attack?

[Goshe] I do not know any details of this military operation.

[Wrase] It was not the first time that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has killed innocent people. In the Israeli towns of Afula and Hadera, over 15 people died in attacks for which Hamas has claimed responsibility.

[Goshe] We offered Rabin more than once that we will no longer attack civilians. However, Rabin rejected that. So long as Palestinian civilians are dying, Jews will also lose their lives. Hamas is waging a just war that will be continued until our land is free. Innocent people are always killed in wars. The Germans bombed London during World War II, the British Dresden, and the victims were exclusively civilians.

[Wrase] You are killing and abducting people. You will not achieve anything with this kind of terrorism.

[Goshe] Now listen! We are no terrorists, as Rabin and Christopher always claim. We are waging a just war against the Israeli occupation force. The soldier Waxman, whom we took prisoner, carried a gun. He was a member of the army that fights against the armed wing of Hamas. He was our prisoner of war. Waxman's parents even wanted to pay money for his release—what a shame! Hamas does not fight for money. We are fighting for the release of our soldiers, for the liberation of Palestine.

[Wrase] Your people killed the "prisoner of war" in cold blood.

[Goshe] 'Arafat betrayed his hideaway to the Israelis. We had no choice. We did not want to kill him. We only demanded the release of our people and wanted to negotiate with the Israelis.

[Wrase] 'Arafat has realized that one cannot achieve anything with terrorism. He is holding talks with the Israelis and has already liberated the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

[Goshe] 'Arafat is no longer the leader of the Palestinians, but a traitor, an auxiliary policemen of the Israelis. He is obeying the orders of the Israeli generals without any grumbling. Just like the Lebanese Antoine Lahad in southern Lebanon occupied by the Israelis. If he is interested in his own well-being, 'Arafat should step down as quickly as possible. He must finally admit that he has failed.

[Wrase] The PLO leader will certainly not do you this favor. Rather, 'Arafat's police will chase and imprison your people to save peace.

[Goshe] He will not succeed. People in the occupied territories support Hamas, and even some of 'Arafat's police. Didn't you see recently how thousands of our supporters surrounded the headquarters of 'Arafat's police in the Gaza strip?

[Wrase] It is quite possible that you can mobilize your supporters. However, the majority of the Palestinian people has realized that their maximum demands cannot be implemented. "Palestine from Jordan to the Mediterranean," as the slogan on your banners reads, is completely unrealistic.

[Goshe] Why? All Palestinian refugees must return—to our towns in the Mediterranean, too, from where they were expelled by the Jews after 1948.

[Wrase] Israelis are now living there within borders that have meanwhile also been recognized by most of the Arab states.

[Goshe] Nearly all Israelis have two passports. They can and should return to Poland and Russia, the United States, and Switzerland. Is it the fault of the Palestinians that these people arrived here? No. The British, the Americans, and even the Moroccans have sent us their Jews. Thus, these countries must take them back again.

[Wrase] Nearly all Palestinians know that nothing can be achieved with such slogans. One day you will realize that you have to talk and negotiate with the Israelis instead of killing civilians.

[Goshe] People in the West are blind in one eye. They are interested in the soldier Wachsman but ignore the Palestinians, our civilians who are being killed every day. What about the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons? It cannot be right that the Palestinians who have been expelled from Jerusalem and Yafo have to remain in Jordanian refugee camps whereas Rabin and Peres, who come from Poland, are allowed to stay forever in our holy capital of Jerusalem.

Tel Aviv Bomb Reinforces Need To Implement Accord

TA2410071994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 21 Oct 94 p 4

[Editorial: "No More Blood"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We strongly condemn the attack on the bus in Tel Aviv that caused the death of innocent people and left everyone in the Palestinian community feeling pain and regret. We offer our condolences to the bereaved families of the victims.

At the same time, this tragic act only reinforces the dire need for both parties to continue the peace process and to implement all the clauses of the Oslo Agreement. This is the only way to prevent bloodshed and ensure the safety of all the people in the region.

The main aim behind the explosion on the bus in Tel Aviv was to undermine the peace process and push the area into an abyss of bloodshed and violence. Therefore, the correct response to these attempts should be to speed up implementation of the articles of the peace process. Conversely, suspending negotiations would be a counterproductive response to the death of innocent people.

This newspaper, in common with the Palestinian National Authority and the majority of the Palestinian people, calls for the acceleration of the implementation of the second phase of the peace agreement, including the holding of legislative elections and the assumption by Palestinians of all civil powers in the West Bank. This will stop those prone to committing acts of violence, both Palestinian and Israeli, from thwarting the peace process.

With all the pain resulting from this tragic incident, and with all the anger and condemnations, we must not overlook the reality that we believe in peace regardless of the circumstances.

The collective punishments Israel enforces on the entire Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip can only worsen the situation, and certainly do not meet the aims of the peace process. These punitive acts serve to placate the anger of the fundamentalists on the Israeli side, while instilling anger universally on the Palestinian side.

The Palestinian people hope that the Israeli government will refrain from imposing such harsh measure, and lift those already imposed which affect hundreds of thousands of innocent people, including women, children and the elderly. Only with wisdom and courage can we continue the peace process.

The condemnation by the Palestinian National Authority of this horrible act, along with condemnations by Palestinian institutions and organizations, shows that the Palestinian people reject violence and counterviolence. Palestinians stand firmly on the side of peace, stability and tranquillity for both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples and the rest of the countries in the region.

Collective punishments only nourish violence and penalize innocent people.

Our peace is the peace of the brave. Those with courage will stop all bloody actions and reject collective punishments.

Arabs Said 'Expecting Much' of Clinton Visit

JN2210175594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Oct 94

[Political commentary by VOP Chief Editor Yusuf al-Qazzaz]

[FBIS Translated Text] The political and economic atmosphere on the regional and international levels is now ready to render the first visit to the Middle East by President Bill Clinton a success. On the Palestinian and Israeli levels, there will be a meeting in Cairo next Sunday between Israeli Foreign Minister Peres and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, to discuss the continuation of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating process.

On the Israeli-Jordanian level, the two sides are preparing, with U.S. blessings, to sign the peace treaty this week. The U.S. President prepared the atmosphere for a meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad when he said that progress had been realized in negotiations between Damascus and Israel. The official U.S. sources stated that Baghdad withdrew its forces northward, away from the Kuwaiti border; Kuwait and the Gulf states have eased their boycott of Israel; and Dennis Ross, the U.S. Middle East coordinator, promised that the Middle East Economic Conference on the Middle East, which will be held in Morocco later this month, will be an economic Madrid.

Therefore, all of this political and economic climate on the regional and international levels has been prepared for rendering Clinton's visit a success.

We are aware that Washington's interests in the Middle East region are defined by two points that are now general facts of U.S. policy; namely, Israel's security and the continuation of the outflow of oil to the United States and its allies in Europe and the world. Clinton's visit to Israel and the Gulf states accentuates the clear importance and vitality of U.S. interests in the region.

The question is: Can the United States preserve its interests for ever in this region? The entire world is aware that one side of the international equation or one of the superpowers; namely what was known as the Soviet Union, collapsed overnight. One result was that the United States assumed control over international decisionmaking, forming regional organizations and imposing on them their moves and political lines in accordance with U.S. interests. This is what is now called the new world order.

In order to preserve the stability and durability of its interests in the region and to keep them away from the circles of threats, the United States must bring about peace—a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace—in the region, given that the United States is one of the two cosponsors of the peace process.

The first step to realize peace is to force its ally Israel to recognize that we are living in an age of peace based on the fact that a solution for the Palestinian question in accordance with the wishes of the Palestinians is the acceptable and cherished peace which will result in an equation whose substance is the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital—Jerusalem which Washington has regarded as an occupied Palestinian territory since 1967.

Washington contributed toward supporting the Palestinian-Israeli agreements and promised to extend financial assistance to the Palestinian National Authority through the donor states. Now we find Israel dragging its feet in responding to the agreements signed with the Palestinians, and the donor countries are dragging their feet in fulfilling their financial commitments to supporting the Palestinian Authority's infrastructures and establishments.

We will continue to hope that Washington will push forward the peace march in the region by forcing Israel to realize peace and stop challenging it by its daily practices against the Palestinian people. Israel may or may not have realized that the Palestinians have other alternatives to pursue the realization of their national political aims, but the Clinton administration must realize this fact because preserving its vital interests in the region requires this awareness and also a definitive recognition of Arab rights in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

Again we hope that the Clinton administration is very eager to push the peace march forward, otherwise the United States will continue to remain a United States with a policy based on blind support for Israel; and Israel will continue to rely on this support which will never serve peace but which will only foment struggle in this region and return it to the brink of tension and frustration.

In short, the Arabs are expecting much of Clinton's visit and they hope that Washington will strengthen its credibility in imposing peace that realizes security and justice for all, especially the Palestinian people.

'Arafat Opposes King Husayn's Claim on Jerusalem

BR1310132094 Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR in French 13 Oct 94 pp 60-61

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the Palestinian Authority, by Elisabeth Schemla; date and place not given: "Yasir 'Arafat: 'Jerusalem Belongs to Us, Not The Jordanians'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Schemla] There should at last be elections in the autonomous and occupied territories. Will you stand as a candidate?

['Arafat] It is the cabinet that will decide that, not I.

[Schemla] And yet, would you not like to legitimize your authority via the ballot box, maybe becoming a president elected by his people?

['Arafat] No comment.

[Schemla] Why are you negotiating with the fundamentalists in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad in the run up to these elections?

['Arafat] It is they who want to negotiate! However, at the same time, we in the cabinet have conceded—and we have said so openly—that we have to enter into discussions and compromise with the entire Palestinian opposition, including Hamas, Jihad, the PFLP [Population Front for the Liberation of Palestine], and the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine].

[Schemla] And yet they are firmly opposed to the peace process on which you have embarked, and they are continuing their attacks in Israel.

['Arafat] Yes, it is impossible to make headway without them. My duty as head of this embryonic state is to reach an understanding with them. I repeat and insist: That is my duty.

[Schemla] These organizations belong to an international movement that is not entirely favorably disposed toward you. For instance, Hasan al-Turabi, the Sudanese strongman and one of the most influential leaders in the Islamic world, said in an interview with Olivier Rolin in LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR dated 25 August 1994 that without any support you "accepted anything" and described you as "a poor man."

['Arafat] I doubt he said that! I know him well, he has been an old friend of mine since we were students together. He has played an extremely positive role.

[Schemla] What do you mean?

['Arafat] He has been the main mediator and brought his full weight to bear in the negotiations between the PLO, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad that we are talking about.

[Schemla] Still the same old strategy! And yet is it not an error to allow the fundamentalists in through the electoral door, which they use as a means of access to power? Does the example in Algeria—where Turabi is both physically and ideologically supporting the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]—not serve as a warning to you?

['Arafat] Palestine is not a copy of Algeria. We are working on our own form of democracy here, and it is the sovereign people who will decide whether or not to come up with a majority of votes in favor of Hamas or Islamic Jihad.

[Schemla] Suppose these two movements won the election; would you then interrupt the electoral process, like the Algerian Government did with the FIS?

['Arafat] I assume you are a democrat. If so, why are you asking me this question? Let me say it quite clearly: I shall respect the verdict reached at the polls.

[Schemla] In all your statements, including those made to Israeli Arabs, you talk of Jerusalem as "the capital of the Palestinian state." Do you mean East Jerusalem?

['Arafat] No. In my opinion there is only one Jerusalem: the Holy City. It is the Israelis who talk of one eastern and one western city. Let them say what they want! For me, UN resolution 242 applies to all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. The peace process was launched at the Madrid conference on this basis, and it was confirmed in the wake of the Hebron massacre.

[Schemla] The Israelis are not your only adversaries on the question of Jerusalem. King Husayn is even more strongly opposed to you, being the historical guardian of the holy sites, and now that he has just reconfirmed his sovereignty. So should we expect a new war between him and you?

['Arafat] Jerusalem is an area under Palestinian—not Jordanian—jurisdiction. Would you Frenchmen accept anyone with pretensions to meddle with the status of Paris? Would the Germans or the English accept the same for Bonn or London? That is why we must settle this matter as quickly as possible, and only with the Palestinians. Jerusalem remains our capital, not Husayn's.

[Schemla] Let us switch from politics to economics. If you are to succeed, you need a great deal of money to flow in rapidly. However, the European Community, in particular, is grumbling because you are not presenting any sufficiently serious plans and are refusing to set up or accept bodies to control the funds...

['Arafat] You are repeating malicious rumors. I would refer you to the satisfied statements made by the vice president of the World Bank. Things are taking shape. And happily so, for peace rests on two pillars: economy and security.

[Schemla] Do you feel secure in Gaza?

['Arafat] As a person and a citizen, yes.

[Schemla] And as a symbol?

['Arafat] Who knows?

[Schemla] What do you feel when people talk of your receiving the Nobel Prize for Peace?

['Arafat] That is the jury's business.

Qaddumi on Peace, Recent Developments

JN2310115194 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Oct 94 p 22

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Haytham Shalabi in Rabat; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Shalabi] Reports on the Syrian-Israeli track have been fluctuating between optimism and pessimism. Do you think that this track will witness a resolution before the end of the year or before the next Israeli elections?

[Qaddumi] It was my belief, right from the very beginning, that Syria would not accept a lame or phased solution. Syria is willing to have peace, but an honorable peace that will restore all its rights. Syria stresses in its official statements that peace means Israel's departure from all Arab lands and the signing of a just peace agreement with Israel. Therefore, I do not believe that there will be a substantial achievement on the Syrian track soon, neither before the end of the year nor before the Israeli elections. This is due to Israeli intransigence and not because of Syria, which is ready and expresses daily its desire to make peace. In contrast, the Israeli rulers are procrastinating and want to withdraw over years. They insist on conditions that cannot be accepted by Syria. These conditions would commit Syria to things to which Israel is not committed. [passage omitted]

[Shalabi] How do you view Rabin's recent decision to suspend negotiations with Palestinians and the possible consequences of this decision?

[Qaddumi] Rabin has no right to suspend talks. The incident that took place in Jerusalem had nothing to do with the National Authority. Rabin is blackmailing us by putting pressure on the National Authority. Let Yitzhaq Rabin withdraw from all the Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, then he can hold the Palestinian Authority and people accountable for any kidnapping incident or operation inside the Palestinian territories. For this reason we say that this is an act of blackmail on the part of Rabin in violation of all international laws and even logic. He has always tried to use these incidents as a pretext to apply pressure on the Palestinian Authority in the Palestinian territories.

[Shalabi] How are you going to deal with this issue?

[Qaddumi] We say that this is a hard evidence that Israel does not want peace. Israel wants to contain the Palestinian territories and it does not want to withdraw from them. We should not let Rabin influence our actions because the territories are under Israeli protection, and not under the Palestinian protection. If the territories were under our protection, the National Authority would be accountable for this. But so long as these territories are occupied, operations will continue. We cannot say that the operations will stop because it is the people's right to resist occupation. This is natural.

[Shalabi] Would you please brief us on the recent visit of the National Authority delegation to Jordan to settle the issue of religious sovereignty over Jerusalem?

[Qaddumi] Let me clarify an important point. Jerusalem is under Israeli occupation and it would be futile to discuss this issue now. When Jerusalem is restored, we will sit down and say we have a problem with our Jordanian brethren. We are one people that past experiences have melded together. We should not dwell on minor issues and argue about them. The basic issue is that the Israelis should leave Jerusalem. I do not think the Palestinian delegation went to Jordan to discuss this issue. I believe it has gone to Jordan to promote Palestinian-Jordanian relations and to consecrate the cohesion between the two peoples away from all these trifles. Therefore, before anything else, the economic agreement should be finalized. I insist on this. We have to delineate the future of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples amicably because we have common interests, common aspirations, and a common future. We should not disagree over issues of this type.

[Shalabi] So, you do not agree that the sensitivity demonstrated toward this issue by several Palestinian officials is justifiable.

[Qaddumi] I do not agree that the Palestinian sensitivity toward this issue is justifiable. In the same vein, I do not believe that the Jordanian sensitivity toward this issue is justifiable. To me, both Palestinian and Jordanian arguments on the issue are unjustifiable.

[Shalabi] Do you expect an imminent meeting of the "Jerusalem Committee" to address this issue?

[Qaddumi] I believe that it is necessary for the Jerusalem Committee to meet. It is up to His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the committee, to set a date for a meeting by the committee, in coordination with the committee members. Such a date must suit all members.

[Shalabi] Do you believe that the idea of launching a regional development bank with a capital exceeding $10 billion will bear fruit, given the existence of the current financing crisis?

[Qaddumi] Ten billion dollars? We have never said that there will be a development bank with such a huge amount of capital.

[Shalabi] The news stories circulated regarding this Israeli idea speak of a capital around $12-14 billion.

[Qaddumi] In fact, these news stories are fabricated. For, the development bank will have a budget of $150-200 million. That is all there is to it. I believe that the development bank we have in mind is a purely Palestinian bank. It has nothing to do with Peres' utopian dreams. Peres has been giving a dramatic description of future Middle East plans that will not materialize. They are just dreams he nurses to give the impression that the Arab-Israeli relationship has become intimate, that there are no problems between Israel and the Arabs, and that the Arab-Israeli conflict has been settled by the achievement of a modest accomplishment on the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Shalabi] Donor nations have said that they will release funds provided that their disbursement is supervised by the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction [PECDAR] headed by Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', and not by the National Authority. This has influenced developments on the Palestinian scene. How are you to address this problematic issue?

[Qaddumi] First, the PECDAR chairman is Abu-al-Lutf (Faruq Qaddumi), and not Abu-'Ala'. The donor nations insist that the disbursement of funds must be carried out by PECDAR. We have already announced a budget as well as the projects that need to be implemented. Similarly, we have set our priorities. Nonetheless, the donor nations have failed to release the funds. This issue has nothing to do with the resignation of a brother official. It lies with the donor nations and the World Bank, which serves as a secretary for these nations. Indeed, the question must be raised regarding the willingness of these nations and the World Bank to release the funds required for the implementation of the projects we have identified.

Second, the fact that Israel is one of the donor nations obstructs the release of funds. For, every time the donor nations meet, Israel raises a controversial political issue to abort the meeting, as it did during the Paris meeting when it submitted a draft plan aimed at denying Jerusalem any economic development projects. A few days before the Paris meeting convened, Yitzhaq Rabin instructed mayors and village council heads not to deal with PECDAR without obtaining prior permission. This is the true state of affairs of the donor nations. They have been deterred by Israeli obstructions, which are preventing the release of funds. The end result is that we have been denied the funds. Israel must get out of the donor nations' club. We neither need its presence nor grants, nor do we need the views it is presenting to the world. Mr. Peres, who is nursing utopian dreams, is telling the world that the Middle East will have just peace. This brings to mind the proverb "His utterances are reminiscent of the utterances made by clergymen, but his deeds are devilish."

[Shalabi] It has been observed that the Palestinian National Authority's relationship with opposition groups like Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has recently been unstable. What are the future prospects for this relationship?

[Qaddumi] This relationship will remain unstable due to the fact that Hamas and the DFLP to some extent disagree with the National Authority's policy, and more specifically with the Oslo agreement, which is the real bone of contention. This will reflect on the relationship between them. We hope that in the near future, when the elections are held, we can achieve conciliation among us. What is more important is that Israel should leave the Palestinian territories after all authorities, without any exception, have been handed over to Palestinians. The Israeli presence exacerbates this disorderly relationship. Israel tries to hold the National Authority responsible for the incidents that occasionally take place outside Gaza and Jericho. This contradicts logic. It means prompting the National Authority to clash and disagree with other organizations. Therefore, we have to completely avoid such problems as long as we are not responsible for them. It is the right of the Palestinian people under occupation to continue resistance.

[Shalabi] When do you expect elections to be held?

[Qaddumi] We have always stressed the importance of elections as a basic step in the structure of the Palestinian National Authority. But, Yitzhaq Rabin is the one who is obstructing them under various pretexts and justifications because he does not want them. Recently, the Israeli delegation to the donors meeting objected to the Palestinian program, particularly to its timing, under the pretext that we presume that elections will be held soon. Rabin has said that he wants the elections to be held in June 1995. The issue is still under discussion.

[Shalabi] Why have you not yet returned to the self-rule areas?

[Qaddumi] I will not return as long as there is Israeli supervision of the crossings and as long as the territories are occupied. Thirty-six percent of the Gaza Strip is still occupied by Israeli settlements. We have been working to liberate the territories and not to go to live under Israel. How can I return to these territories while they are still occupied?

The National Authority and what we have done is an adventure. I have said it clearly; it is an adventure that may succeed or fail. As long as the Palestinian track is stumbling, our presence outside [the self-rule areas] will give us the freedom of political movement and action away from Israeli pressure and blackmail. Therefore, we can defy Rabin once, twice, and a thousand times without being pressured. We can also clarify to the world that Israel does not want to have peace. We can also stress the need for the intifadah to continue. So, our return is ruled out until Israel has left and until such a time when the crossings have been placed under the supervision of the Palestinian people.

Islamic Party Spokesmen on Hamas, Elections

TA2210162994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Oct 94 p B2

[Report on interview with Shaykhs Jamal Salim and Jamal Mansur by correspondent Ori Nir; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Jamal Salim and Shaykh Jamal Mansur are two of the most prominent West Bank spokesmen for and apparently also among the chief promulgators of the idea of establishing an Islamic political party. They are both young men (Salim is 36, Mansur is 34) who were born into the "occupation generation" in the territories.

They both work as preachers in Nabulus. They both come from refugee families (Salim's family is from the village of al-Damun near 'Akko, and the Mansur family comes from Tel Aviv's Salamah neighborhood). They were both deported to Lebanon among the large group of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad deportees in December 1992. They have both been arrested many times, mostly through administrative detention orders, for Hamas- related activities. Jamal Mansur has been arrested and jailed 14 times and has spent a total of three and a half years in administrative detention. They are both educated. Salim graduated from Amman University with a degree in Islamic religious law and is now completing a masters degree in Islamic thought at Nabulus' al-Najah University. Mansur earned a bachelors degree from al-Najah and a masters degree in Islamic studies from Sudan's Khartoum University. Salim is a religion teacher at the Islamic High School in Nabulus (a private school), and Mansur is employed as a writer and researcher in various forums.

The two men were joined by Fayyad al-Ajbar, 34, who is a graduate of the institute for Muslim religious law in Qalqilyah, an Imam and preacher at a Nabulus mosque, the headmaster of a private Islamic elementary school in the town, and also active within educational and social aspects of the local Islamic movement. The three of them sought to clarify that they are not Hamas members. They merely support the movement and identify with its platform. They make sure to mention that they were imprisoned in the past for activities on behalf of the group but were not "recruited into the organization," as Salim put it. "We are political people acting to promote the Islamic movement," they assert. The three men asked us to use the term "Islamic movement," the same term employed by their colleagues inside the Green Line, and not identify them with Hamas.

[HA'ARETZ] This week one of the largest terrorist attacks in Israel's history took place in Tel Aviv. What is your reaction to this?

[Mansur] We call on both sides to avoid bloodshed and refrain from attacking civilians. The need to achieve mutual understanding in the region obligates us to avoid harming civilians from both sides. There is no justification for civilian casualties.

[Salim] The Marj al-Zuhur deportees have no connection to these operations and to this specific action. On Wednesday [19 October] a denial was published following radio reports claiming that the deportees were responsible for the attack. Malicious elements tried to drag our names into the affair, and we resent this.

[HA'ARETZ] What do you think of the attack itself?

[Salim] I believe that both the Palestinians and Israel are wrong to target civilians. What both sides have to do is immediately halt all activities against civilians.

[HA'ARETZ] Do you condemn the attack?

[Salim] I already said that the deportees from Marj al-Zuhur deny any connection to the incident. We therefore distance ourselves from this matter. Moreover, it is inconceivable for us to even think of committing such an act.

[HA'ARETZ] Why?

[Salim] The deportees are mostly political officials, religious figures, or social activists who do not think about such things. One should note that no Islamic element has officially assumed responsibility for the attack. There may be insidious attempts to blame the Islamic movement for this affair.

[HA'ARETZ] After the attack, Israeli officials raised the possibility of widespread punitive steps against Hamas. What do you think?

[Salim] Collective punishment is a mistake. Such punishment has always had and will always have negative results. Arresting or harassing people who have nothing to do with this attack will have a negative effect.

[HA'ARETZ] Is there a complete separation between Hamas' military and political arms?

[Salim] Clearly, there is a very profound and large difference between the military and political arms. The political arm is well known and engages in overt political activity. The military arm, on the other hand, is made up of people who have nothing to do with the mainstream body of the movement. Their identities are not known, and they have nothing to do with officials from the political echelon. There is no coordination, and they operate within the framework of groups no one knows anything about.

[Mansur] There are two wings inside Hamas, and, as far as the organizational structure goes, they maintain a connection that is similar to the link between the Israeli Government and the Israeli army. However, due to the special conditions inside the occupied territories, the two wings maintain total separation. There is no connection between them. Here, in the territories, unlike in normal relationships between the government and the army, the political arm does not establish any contact, does not finance activities, and does not give orders to the military arm. This is inside the territories. The division of powers (between the military and political echelons) is observed outside of the occupied territories.

[HA'ARETZ] Who gives the instructions to the military arm? Do they come from the outside?

[Mansur] I think so. From various places outside the territories, if any such instructions indeed are sent. Their leadership may simply be inside (the territories).

[HA'ARETZ] Is the Islamic movement prepared to participate in elections according to democratic rules? Does Islamic religious law permit participation in the democratic game?

[Salim] The Islamic movement demands elections, and also partakes in elections for every body and institution in the territories. However, it insists on elections for a legislative council that will become part of the self-determination process of the Palestinian people.

[Mansur] The Islamic movement views elections as the realization of an important principle, because it is a matter of the public good. Elections will be good even if we do not like the results. In other words, the principle itself is beneficial, even if its implementation will lead to results that I consider undesirable and even if I lose in the elections. There is nothing wrong with that. Islamic religious law is in agreement on this issue, and the Islamic movement worldwide plays the democratic game—in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria. It participates and accepts the results. The problem is that these regimes throughout the Arab world are not democratic. That is why we consider it important not only to implement the principle of elections but also to make sure that the election process is fair.

[HA'ARETZ] Do you fear the emergence of an undemocratic regime here in the Palestinian arena?

[Salim] In my opinion, there are attempts by Israel and some Palestinian elements to place caveats and conditions on and obstacles to the Islamic movement's participation in the political game. But Palestinian society is different from Arab countries, which do not have democratic regimes. The Palestinian people will refuse to accept constraints on or obstacles to their democratic right to vote and be elected. If people are denied the possibility to freely and openly exercise their political rights, they will have no recourse but to opt for clandestine activities, and that is against the interests of both the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Israeli Government. They both have an interest in permitting the opposition to express itself politically in a free and overt fashion.

[HA'ARETZ] Does not participation in elections within the framework of the Oslo-Cairo agreements automatically create some kind of a problem? Does this not present caveats and conditions you find unacceptable?

[Mansur] If it is ruled that these agreements are the source of authority for elections. If these agreements are the ceiling, then the Islamic movement will boycott the elections. The Islamic movement and the entire Palestinian people demand that the elections fulfill the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to choose its leaderships in a fair vote. In the past, under military occupation, this was impossible. We consider free elections to be the turning point from occupation to freedom (...) we do not say that we oppose holding elections [sentence as published]. We say yes to elections, but two basic conditions must first be fulfilled before they can be free. First, the entire Palestinian people—both on the inside (Israel, the occupied territories) and on the outside (the diaspora)—must be allowed to elect its leadership. In certain locations, such as among Palestinians within the Green Line, this will not be practically possible; however, their right to vote must at least be recognized. Second, the elected legislative council must have the right to define its political agenda in a way that will reflect the aspirations of the Palestinian people without being under any preordained sponsorship. In other words, the council must have rights similar to those of the Israeli Knesset, such as the right to legislate, alter existing laws, monitor government activities, and so forth.

[HA'ARETZ] Let us say that an Islamic party competes in the elections. Could it conceivably form a coalition with representatives identified with the PLO?

[Salim] Certainly. Muslim law permits coalitions if it serves the interests of Islam and the public. In Yemen we even saw a coalition between the Islamic list and the reigning socialist party.

[HA'ARETZ] Would an Islamic party be prepared to condemn terrorism?

[Salim] First of all, the party is supposed to represent all Islamic elements that believe that the Islamic way reflects the political viewpoint of large segments of the public. It will not be the party of the Hamas organization but of anyone identifying with its platform, which will express a wide range of opinions. You ask whether this platform might incorporate a clause condemning terrorism? That depends on the decision of the party's leadership.

[Mansur] Party members will have to adhere to the platform, but there will be points that do not appear in the platform, and everyone will be permitted his own opinion on these matters.

[HA'ARETZ] Sometimes you people appear to be taking the easy way out. You create a total separation between Hamas' military and political wings and disclaim any responsibility for the attacks committed by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam members.

[Mansur] One must differentiate between direct and indirect responsibility. The Israeli people regard the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] as their army but do not always agree with every one of its actions. Sometimes there are even demonstrations or protests against IDF activities. But the Israeli people are indirectly responsible for the IDF because it is the people's army. Hamas (political) activists or supporters cannot bear direct, legal responsibility for actions by the military arm; however, there is also indirect responsibility, which is problematic for us.

[HA'ARETZ] Do you personally support the recent activities of the military arm?

[Mansur] I agree with the definition of terrorism that appears in Binyamin Netanyahu's book—a military action directed against civilians with the aim of achieving political goals. That is terrorism, unless the civilians are armed fighters and their respective peoples are at war. When the action is directed against soldiers or military targets, I consider it legitimate and in accordance with international law. The problem is with attacks on civilians. I am opposed to attacks on civilians, because I am convinced that this goes against the religious tenets of Islam. I am opposed to this unless these are retaliatory actions like those between Hizballah and Israel.

[HA'ARETZ] What do you think about attacks against civilians within urban centers?

[Salim] We as Muslims have clear instructions regarding holy war—it is forbidden to kill children, women, old men, or slaves. One must not set a tree on fire or kill a lamb. Jihad incorporates a moral code. One must not kill civilian noncombatants. This is prohibited by our religion. I oppose such deeds; however, frankly speaking, something else must also be considered: How many civilians did Israel kill in the course of the intifadah? Hundreds. Children, women, and civilians, without any reaction by the Israeli people. This sparks a desire for vengeance. You should realize that Israeli blood is no holier or dearer than Palestinian blood, the blood of Palestinian civilians. We are treated as though we were inferior, as though our lives were cheap. These things will cease when the occupation ends.

[HA'ARETZ] What about attacks against civilians in areas that are not under occupation?

[Mansur] These (armed operations) are the result of the situation that exists in the field.

[Salim] The picture presented in Israel is that the Islamic Movement and especially Hamas seek to destroy the State of Israel and that our ideology knows no compromise. But there are also influential segments of the Israeli public that believe in Greater Israel. This exists, but it is a dream. Israel cannot realize this dream. It is the same with us. Some people believe in a Palestinian state from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. As a supporter of the Islamic Movement I believe in my rights over Palestine. I am from Palestine. My family is from al-Damun, but this is a distant dream. It is a dream inside my heart.

[HA'ARETZ] Let us assume that Israel will seek to start a dialogue with you. What is your reaction?

[Mansur] That is a sensitive question. The dialogue has always been conducted across the interrogation room. A connection must be based on the right foundations, on the basis of equality. There is no such equality today, even if the strong employs the language of the weak, like Shim'on Peres. Therefore all the talk about dialogue is premature. One can talk about negotiations for a cease-fire, which we all need. Such a cease-fire must include a commitment by Israel regarding the date of its withdrawal.

Islamic Jihad Movement Elects New Leader

JN2310143394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine-al-Aqsa Battalions has decided to dismiss Fayiz al-Aswad, the Movement's leader, and to divest him of all his powers. This came in a statement issued today on the meeting of the movement's leadership in Khartoum last month. The movement elected Shaykh Husayn 'Anbar as its secretary general.

Poll Views Violence, PA, Other Issues

TA1710110194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A survey taken before last week's Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] attacks indicates that almost half the Hamas supporters polled do not back armed attacks against Israeli targets in Gaza and Jericho.

The poll, issued yesterday by Nabulus-based Center for Palestine Research and Studies [CPRS] put support for "armed operations" at 51 percent for Hamas, with 40 percent against and 9 percent with no opinion.

Fifty-five percent of Islamic Jihad supporters, 60 percent of the quasi-Marxist Democratic Front and 70 percent of the left-wing Popular Front backed armed operations. Among members of Fatah, which backs the Oslo accords, 22 percent supported armed actions. All figures were rounded off to the nearest percentage point.

Taken overall, 33 percent of interviewees support "armed operations" while 56 percent opposed them and the remainder have no opinion. Gazans (39 percent) support violence against Israelis more than Palestinians not yet under Palestinian Authority [PA] rule (29 percent).

The poll does not indicate what proportion of Palestinians support violence against Israelis in other locations. It was taken at the end of September and included 1,251 interviewees from throughout the territories.

The poll may show a growing pragmatic trend in Hamas, according to Khalil Shiqaqi, director of the CPRS, who said he was surprised that 40 percent of Hamas supporters said they opposed violence against Israelis in the Palestinian autonomy areas.

The survey showed disturbing economic trends. Under the PA in Gaza, 48 percent feel their economic condition has worsened, while 40 percent of Palestinians not under PA rule feel their economic situation has worsened in the past year.

Only 32 percent of Gazans say they are satisfied with the performance of the PA, but 38 percent say it is too early to judge.

The poll indicated that 79 percent of Palestinians want elections, a figure that has remained almost constant throughout a dozen monthly surveys.

Algeria

General Lamari Promoted to Highest Army Rank

MM2410134994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Lamari Strengthens His Position Within Military Command"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—According to informed sources in the Algerian capital, President and Defense Minister Liamine Zeroual has issued a decree promoting Chief of Staff Major General Mohamed Lamari to the rank of lieutenant general, making him the highest-ranking officer in the Algerian Army. No other officer has ever had that rank. Major General Khaled Nezzar had until now been the highest officer, higher than Lamari on the basis of seniority. The decree promoting the chief of staff is expected to be announced 1 November and, contrary to previous reports that he might be given other duties to facilitate the dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], Lamari will keep his post as chief of staff.

The new rank strengthens Lamari's position as army commander opposite President Liamine Zeroual, who is considered to be a civilian. It would not come as a surprise if Lamari were given the defense portfolio in the next cabinet reshuffle. [passage omitted]

FIS Will 'Fight' Disobedient 'Fundamentalists'

NC2410142294 Paris AFP in English 1319 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Oct 24 (AFP)—Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) on Monday [24 October] warned it will fight radical armed fundamentalists who fail to obey its orders, a day after two Spanish nuns were killed by suspected extremists.

"We are ready to fight them, like the authorities are currently doing," one of the top FIS leaders, Abdelkader Boukhamkham, said in a statement published on Monday by the daily EL-OUMMA, close to the Islamist movement.

Boukhamkham was released from prison in February by the military-backed government, which last month also freed FIS chief Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj, in a bid to promote a political solution to Algeria's guerrilla war.

"As soon as the FIS is rehabilitated, the armed groups will cease all their operations and obey the leaders of the FIS. If the contrary happens, which is unlikely, then we shall remove all their political credibility," he said.

Boukhamkham also blamed President Liamine Zeroual's government for a recent escalation in the violence—which has claimed at least 10,000 lives since a state of emergency was declared in February 1992, according to officials.

Had the regime applied "all the agreements reached after we came out of prison, we would at least have come to a truce declaration to end the bloodshed," Boukhamkham said.

FIS officials have said the authorities promised "total freedom" for Madani and Belhadj, convicted in June 1992 of state security offences and jailed for 12 years, but the two were instead placed under house arrest.

The two nuns gunned down on Sunday in the Bab El-Oued working-class district of Algiers brought to eight the number of foreigners murdered in cold blood in October and to 68 the toll over the past 13 months.

Responsibility for most of the killings has been claimed by the hardline Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which rules out any "talks, truce or reconciliation" with the regime and last year told all foreigners to leave or face death.

Madani and Belhadj, who were already behind bars when the violence began after the authorities cancelled the second round of general elections the FIS was poised to win in January 1992, have refused to call for a truce until they are given total freedom and allowed to contact all the political and military chiefs of the Islamist movement.

On several occasions, the FIS has disclaimed any part in the attacks on expatriates accused of collaborating with the regime, as part of a campaign in which Algerian teachers, doctors, civil servants, industry chiefs and intellectuals have been targetted.

Spain has joined France, from which Algeria won independence in 1962, in renewing calls on all of its nationals to leave the country unless their presence is indispensable. Officials said about 300 Spaniards are still in Algeria.

Since November last year, some 6,000 French people have pulled out, and there are in all fewer than a thousand recently expatriated foreigners still in the country, most of them in the key oil industry.

Last Tuesday, a French and an Italian technician were killed in an arson attack on oil installations, the first major operation of its kind, claimed by the GIA.

German Reporter Describes Security Practices

AU2410121194 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 21 Oct 94 p 3

[Interview with ARD's Algiers correspondent Samuel Schirmbeck by Thomas Schmid; place and date not given: "One Puts on a Hijab"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Schmid] Mr. Schirmbeck, do you wear a bullet-proof jacket?

[Schirmbeck] No, I do not have one. Only one of my colleagues here, a French radio reporter, wore one because he used to ride a moped through the streets. Otherwise a bullet-proof jacket does nothing at all. If someone is on the death list, he is finished in any case. Here, one's throat gets cut or one receives a bullet in the head. A bullet-proof jacket is no help against that.

[Schmid] Are you on such a list?

[Schirmbeck] I did receive a death threat on 15 August, with the words "Get out of Algeria" and "Sentenced to death." I have also received threatening telephone calls. But I do not know if I am on any death list.

[Schmid] Have you asked for police protection?

[Schirmbeck] I have informed the authorities and the embassy about these threats, but I have not asked directly for any police protection. Despite this, I have had plain clothes policemen outside my door. When I saw them for the first time, I telephoned the security headquarters and asked whether these were their people, whether they were genuine policemen. The security headquarters replied that that was exactly what they themselves wanted to know. We filmed the policemen in front of the house and then the security headquarters and I watched the film together.

But at first not even they could tell whether these were genuine policemen. They could not identify the vehicle until later, after they had examined all the vehicles in the vehicle park. It turned out that the policemen in front of my house were real after all.

[Schmid] What precautions do you take when you want to film a report?

[Schirmbeck] One can avoid getting shot by not going around on foot. For instance, the general director of the Korean firm Daewoo was shot as he was getting out of his car to go and buy a newspaper. One cannot take a single step. One must change cars often, and one must never be recognized as a European inside a car. Therefore one puts on a scarf or hijab around one's head, so that one looks like an Arab grandmother who is being taken to hospital to see her relatives. In any case, the Islamic underground is very well aware of who has police protection.

[Schmid] Do you sleep at home?

[Schirmbeck] No foreigner spends more than one night in his house. We sleep at friends' houses, or in well-secured hotels. One changes one's accommodation permanently. I have been doing that for the past four weeks.

[Schmid] How many foreign correspondents are there left in Algiers?

[Schirmbeck] As far as western correspondents are concerned, apart from me there is only one French news agency reporter here. Other western reporters come from time to time and spend a few days here. But the French media cannot risk having their people here for more than a few days at a time in order to do their work covertly. As far as I know, they do not even receive entry permits because their security here cannot be guaranteed.

[Schmid] How much longer are you going to stay in this dangerous place?

[Schirmbeck] Major developments are taking place in Algeria because the country is under enormous pressure from a foreign political and ecological angle and and because the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], or at least its leadership, has realized that it will never achieve its objectives unless it undertakes a new political step, and such a step is the secret talks between the presidential palace and the Muslim leaders under house arrest.

I think major decisions will be reached by the end of the year. Hopefully, the present leadership will finally realize that they have dreamed up a people for themselves, just like the other leaderships during the 30 years of independence. For Boumedienne, the Algerian people were modern, but devoid of criticism. For Chadli, they were a corrupt people, and he democratized corruption. And the Muslims claim that the whole of Algeria longs to wear the hijab because they received over 47 percent of the votes, which is nonsense. The Algerians are the most modern and least fundamentalist people in North Africa. I hope there will be elections, and that I live long enough to see them.

Industry Minister Holds Talks With U.S. Envoy

LD2410091094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Issues related to industrial activities, energy, the restructuring that is to be undertaken in the future, and bilateral exchanges were discussed in the talks held yesterday between Amar Mekhloufi, the minister of industry and energy and the ambassador of the United States of America in Algiers. During this meeting they stressed the need to increase training and exchange programs with some American universities specializing in hydrocarbons, and to gain knowledge in the field of combating marine and coastal pollution and pollution by chemical wastes and petroleum products.

Industry Minister Meets With British Ambassador

LD2310190094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian-British talks were held yesterday at the headquarters of the Ministry of Industry and Energy between Mr Amar Mekhloufi, minister of industry and energy, and the ambassador of Britain to Algeria, Mr. Christopher Donald Crabbie. According to a statement by the Ministry of Industry and Energy, the talks dealt with bilateral relations and issues of common interest. The two officials noted the need to study the prospects of partnerships in the fields of hydrocarbons, mechanic industries, mining, training, and sectors of applied research.

Egypt

Musa To Attend Jordanian-Israeli Treaty Signing

NC2410154594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa leaves Cairo for al-'Aqabah the day after tomorrow, Wednesday, to attend the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement.

Musa stressed that the closure of the borders in Gaza and Jericho harms the Palestinian people and maintains the tension. In a statement he made this afternoon, he noted that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has condemned the acts of violence. He said that such incidents could happen at any time and stressed that the escalation of the situation creates a series of reactions that would damage the peace process. The Egyptian foreign minister added that it has been proved that the Palestinian Authority is doing its work as best it can and its management of affairs is proceeding satisfactorily.

On the recent round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, Musa said that the discussions were held in a calm atmosphere. He added that there is an attempt by both sides to overcome the existing difficulties and he sensed this through his participation in the talks that took place in Cairo yesterday. He added that Egypt supports the Syrian stand for achieving a full Israeli withdrawal, both of the military and the settlements, from the Golan.

Paper Criticizes Israeli Mass Punishment Tactic

NC2510080294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has criticized the policy of mass punishment that Israel implements whenever some regrettable incidents occur in the occupied territories. In an editorial today, the paper says that this policy no longer has any justification. It points out that such incidents are expected to happen and must be dealt with on this basis and must not be allowed to undermine the newly established peace or hinder further peace moves. AL-AKHBAR remarks that an individual incident carried out by an extremist group, whether Israeli or Palestinian, must not be allowed to disrupt the ties between the parties who have concluded a peace agreement. The paper adds that the vicious circle of violence and counterviolence must be broken and must not be allowed to ruin the peace measures achieved so far in the region.

Jordanian-PA Dispute Over Jerusalem Criticized

NC2410170094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Oct 94 p 9

[From the "Viewpoint" column by Zakariya Nil: "The Farce Between Amman and Gaza!!"—punctuation as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] No "Arab human being" expected what happened between two fraternal countries waging the same battle to liberate the usurped territories, nor to see them give Israel the opportunity to achieve expansionist gains at the expense of their differences instead of standing together.

The issue is this: Following the death of Jerusalem Mufti Shaykh Sulayman al-Ja'bari two weeks ago, the Jordanian and Palestinian Governments acted in an unexpected manner at a critical stage in their negotiations with Israel. The Jordanian Government appointed Shaykh 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abidin to be Jerusalem's new mufti while the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Gaza appointed Shaykh 'Akramah Sabri to the same position.

Such behavior was not expected during such a critical stage in the two sides' negotiations with Israel. We all know that the ground under the PA is being shaken now by warped Israeli actions. We also know that Jordan is coming under Israeli pressure to allow Israel the most fertile Jordanian lands, namely the occupied Jordanian territories, which are now an obstacle to a settlement.

Is it not a scandalous farce for two fraternal countries to struggle over Jerusalem?

Since both countries have a role in the same issue—namely, the retrieval of their usurped national soil—then why struggle at this stage over the city of Jerusalem amid all the problems and the plans and schemes to Judaize it?

Would it not have been wiser and better to postpone this issue or to agree beforehand on a formula on filling this position that satisfies both sides?

There is also this question: What will be Jerusalem's status be in the second stage of negotiations with the Israeli Government when it is a point of dispute between two brothers that may impede annexing it to the Palestinian territories? Israel is naturally gleefully dancing to the tunes of this struggle over the most important spiritual position in a city that all Palestinian people rally around as the capital of their expected state. How can this error be corrected? The answer lies with Amman and Gaza.

Joint Israeli-Egyptian Refinery Planned

TA2110142694 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Oct 94 p 7

[Report by Hadas Geifman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A cooperation agreement was signed at a festive ceremony in Cairo between the national Egyptian General Petroleum Company, EGPC, and the Midur [name as transliterated] company, which owns a franchise to build a joint Israeli-Egyptian oil refinery in Alexandria. EGPC purchased 20 percent ownership in the project, leaving 80 percent in the hands of two partners: Yosi Meyman (the owner of the Merhav company) and Salim, an Egyptian consortium.

The Midur refinery, which will be built with a $1 billion investment, is the largest Israeli-Arab project to date. It is expected to serve the Egyptian, Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian markets, as well as additional markets in the eastern sector of the Mediterranean. The refinery will thus become an important practical step toward regional cooperation in the field of energy. The work on the refinery is expected to start in the first half of 1995 and to be completed in 1998. [passage omitted]

Opposition Reports Mubarak Assassination Attempt

JN2410154094 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD newspaper has learned from reliable Egyptian opposition sources that President Husni Mubarak was exposed to an assassination attempt some time before 6 October, the anniversary of the October war. Opposition sources said that two speeding cars penetrated the security cordon around President Mubarak while he was on his way from home to the playfield where he does his daily physical exercise.

The sources added that President Mubarak's bodyguards were surprised by the two speeding cars, but resisted the attempt and sprayed the passengers of both cars with bullets, killing them all. The Egyptian state organs prevented the media organs from publishing reports on this assassination attempt in order not to give the fundamentalist groups any media victory or to weaken the credibility of the security organs, which have always stressed the absence of violence in Egypt.

Mubarak Discusses Arab Issues With UAE President

NC2310212994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this evening held a telephone conversation with United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The two leaders discussed the current Arab issues and international developments as part of their continuous consultations.

Al-Azhar Shaykh Receives U.S. Ambassador

NC2310161894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq, grand shaykh of al-Azhar, received U.S. Ambassador Edward Walker today. The meeting dealt with a number of issues, including terrorism and its impact on the peace process in the Middle East. Jad-al-Haq explained that Islam denounces terrorism and extremism. Referring to the circumcision of a young girl filmed by the CNN during the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo last month, he described this film as provocative and staged. Explaining the Islamic shari'ah's stand on male and female circumcision, he explained that erroneous application does not deprecate the legal base [al-khata' fi al-tatbiq la yu'ib al-qa'idah al-shar'iyah].

Somali Adviser Arrives With Message From Aidid

NC2410171594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Warsimah, adviser to General Mohamed Aidid [name and title as heard], arrived in Cairo today on a visit to Egypt. He stated that he is carrying a message from General Aidid to President Mubarak on developments in Somalia and the efforts being made to achieve national accord. He added that he will meet with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to exchange views on the situation in Somalia. Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at met with the Somali guest upon his arrival. The issues discussed were the present situation in Somalia and the obstacles hindering efforts to achieve national reconciliation.

Foreign Currency Reserves Reach $17.4 Billion

NC2410114494 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 17 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign currency reserves at the Central Bank have reached approximately $17.4 billion, a responsible banking source has stated. The source added that the government seeks to maintain the stability of the Egyptian pound in relation to the U.S. dollar and secure a positive interest rate on savings in Egyptian pounds in a way that does not hamper investment and encourages demand for credit. The source added that the interest rate on Egyptian pound deposits remains higher than that on dollar deposits. Most customers prefer to save in pounds rather than dollars, the source noted, adding that the average interest rate on the pound is now approximately 11 percent.

The source noted that the inflation rate has dropped this year to approximately 7 percent, as opposed to approximately 27 percent in 1991, thanks to the liberalization of interest rates, freeing of the foreign currency exchange rate, and financing of the government's budget deficit through issuing treasury bonds and cutting down government spending. The source pointed out that the balance of payments has for several years been showing a surplus. In addition, the deficit in the government budget declined from 20 percent in 1991 to approximately 7.4 in 1992. It is expected to reach 3.2 at the end of this year, the source added.

World Bank Approves $400 Million in Aid

NC2210182094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1612 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi, minister of public works and water resources, has disclosed the World Bank's approval of

$400 million for Egypt to finance irrigation projects, pumping and mechanical stations, tiled sewage systems, and to decrease evaporation from the [Aswan] High Dam Lake.

He said the Rosetta [branch of the Nile River] will be developed and new locks will be built at Naj' Hammadi at a cost of $352 million. He added that talks are under way with the World Bank and other international organizations to determine their possible contributions to these projects.

Minister Radi made these remarks at a news conference today on the results of his recent one-week visit to Syria. The aim of the visit was to follow up on the protocol on cooperation in irrigation and sewage and the financing of future projects and to attend a joint Egyptian-Syrian seminar.

He said agreement was reached with the Syrian Irrigation Ministry to form a joint Egyptian-Syrian committee to discuss and develop water laws in both countries that would be commensurate with the shortage of water resources and their ideal usage. He added that agreement was reached for Egyptian Public Works Ministry experts to contribute to projects utilizing agricultural and sewage water in Syria and projects on geographical data technology and water resources planning. Dr. Radi said there was also agreement for Syria to participate in projects on artificial rain and small dams, in which Syria specializes.

Policeman, Child Killed; 5 Wounded in Attack

NC2410065194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2308 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—A regular sentry and a girl were martyred and five soldiers were injured this evening when unidentified gunmen fired at the Mallawi Police Station in al-Minya in Upper Egypt.

An official security source at the Interior Ministry said that at about 1900 today unidentified gunmen fired at the force guarding the Mallawi Police Station's rest house and at a mobile patrol while it was inspecting the guards. Regular sentry Safwat 'Abd-al-'Alim Khallaf, from the Bandar Mallawi force, and child Sumayyah [rest of name indistinct], who happened to be in the area, were martyred. Four recruits and a secret policeman from the Mallawi police force were injured and taken to Mallawi General Hospital. The source said that leaders of the al-Minya Security Directorate, investigation agencies, and forensic experts are at the scene of the incident. Police services are now combing the area to capture the culprits.

Police Arrest 81 'Militants' Throughout Country

NC2410211394 Paris AFP in English 2034 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 24 (AFP)—Security forces arrested 81 suspected Moslem militants throughout Egypt in the past week in a bid to quell a surge in violence, police said Monday [24 October].

Thirty-nine of the militants were arrested in the provinces of Suhaj, 485 kilometers (308 miles) south of Cairo, and al-Qalyubiyah, 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of here, police said.

There were also raids in the southern province of Asyut and the northeastern province of al-Sharqiyah.

Moslem militants launched a campaign of violence in Egypt in March 1992 in a bid to topple President Husni Mubarak's secularist government, and replace it with an Islamic government. More than 470 people have died in violence since then.

MENA Satellite Transmission To Begin

NC2410094694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif will open MENA transmission via satellite at noon tomorrow, Tuesday. This will carry the voice of Egypt and the Arab world around the globe. The minister will give the start signal at a celebration the agency will hold on this occasion, after more than two weeks of experimental satellite transmission. [passage omitted] MENA Board Chairman Mustafa Najib said the agency, which will transmit 24 hours a day, will work to boost the activity of its bureaus and correspondents in the Arab world, Africa, Europe, and the United States to increase its press services of news and reports. [passage omitted]

Libya

Ministry Source Proposes U.S. Reopen Embassy

LD2210002894 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] News reports were circulating what the U.S. State Department had announced about the U.S. rejection of the proposal put forward by the Arab League general secretariat to tackle the so-called Lockerbie issue.

A source at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has made a statement in which it said:

The position announced yesterday by the U.S. State Department puts the United States in a contradictory position to that of the international community which is supportive of the Arab League's proposal to try the two suspects at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice with the agreement of the parties concerned on the required measures and guarantees. And this had been stressed by member states of the Organization of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference Organization in addition to China, India, and the State of the Vatican.

When the U.S. Government opposes this proposal, it is opposing the will of the entire international community. This prompts us to raise, astonishingly, a number of questions about the essence of the working mechanisms at the United Nations Organization, for the proposal of the Arab League was supposed to be put before the Security Council, being the competent body to deal with the subject to either accept it, amend it, or reject it and not before the United States of America which, along with Britain and France, had referred the issue, which was legal in essence, to the United Nations to tackle it exclusively.

The source wondered: Regarding this mix-up and contradiction, does one deal with the United Nations or the United States? This question should be answered by the United States. The source said that if the issue is put forward before the United Nations, which is empowered to deal with it, the United States has no right to reject any proposal before it is submitted to the United Nations. It also said that what was issued by the U.S. State Department contributes to shaking the UN picture and casts doubt on the credibility of its charter and organizations before the peoples of the world.

It also stresses that the measures which were imposed on the Libyan Arab people took place as a result of this shortcoming and the United States' attempt to turn the United Nations into a field for serving the U.S. policy without taking into consideration the interests and the stances of the states and peoples of the world.

We have noticed that as soon as an initiative for arriving at an understanding which can resolve this crisis is undertaken at the United Nations, the United States obstructs it. This makes us say that if the United States wishes to deal directly with this issue and to jointly seek solutions to it, it must take the initiative to reopen its embassy in the Great Jamahiriyah and reopen the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Washington so that there are two channels of communication. If it does not do that and continues to oppose the reaching of an understanding with the United Nations, this will be an expression of a strange logic which will not be accepted by the peoples of the world and the United States will have to justify it.

Arab-Maltese Joint Commission Minutes Signed

LD2210222094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The minutes of the meetings of the 14th session of the Libyan Arab-Maltese joint commission, which continued for three days, were signed in Tripoli this afternoon. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security and John Dalli, minister of financial services in the Republic of Malta.

The minutes stressed the depth of the excellent ties between the Great Jamahiriyah and Malta on the basis of the uninterrupted meetings between the two friendly countries at various levels. The minutes expressed satisfaction at the progress of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Malta and the preparations for further cooperation in various spheres. The minutes of the 14th session of the Libyan Arab-Maltese joint commission included the strengthening and consolidation of cooperation in the fields of oil, investments, dual taxation, maritime and air transport, telecommunications, agriculture, industry, education, culture, information, trade exchange, customs, health, tourism, and banking.

Basic People's Congress Committees Empowered

LD2510005894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Secretariat of the General People's Congress [GPC] received some inquiries regarding the announcements made following the issuing of Resolution 71, dated 11 October 1994, on the election of the Secretariats of the Basic People's Congresses [BPC] and the Basic People's Committees and whether those elections were partial or total.

Although the aforementioned resolution and the announcements on its implementation were clear, the Secretariat of the GPC would like to reiterate the contents of Resolution 71 regarding the completion of the election, on the one hand of the People's Committees of the newly created Secretariats, and on the other hand the election of whomever the BPCs choose for the membership of their secretariats and People's Committees, replacing those regarded by the BPCs as not meeting the conditions stipulated by law No. 2 of 1994 on BPCs' Secretariats, or not having the competence and experience required from the members and secretaries of the People's Committees at the BPCs which have now all the authorities and responsibilities of the General People's Committee within their region.

In all circumstances, BPCs are the holders of authority and decisionmaking, and nobody should dispute their right to elect or to terminate the membership of anyone, even if this means electing their entire secretariats and their People's Committees if this is found necessary.

[Signed] The Secretariat of the General People's Congress

Morocco

King Hassan II Interviewed by Israel TV

TA2410113694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Oct 94

["Exclusive" interview with King Hassan II by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari, at the royal palace near Rabat "a few hours ago"—recorded, in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles; translated from the Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ya'ari] I thank you, Your Majesty, for this first ever interview with Israeli Television. At the outset, if possible, I would like to hear Your Majesty's comment on the recent events—the bloody attacks that unfortunately have accompanied or are accompanying the peace process in the region.

[Hassan] First of all, I would like to say something, namely, that I was pleasantly surprised this morning when I was told that the interview would be conducted in Arabic. This is proof, perhaps the strongest kind, that cultural ties, which are the strongest ties binding nations, still exist between the Arabs and Israel. As you are aware, the human factor and its genuineness and historical roots are the the basic elements on which every comprehensive, lasting, open, and permanent peace is founded.

The events in Tel Aviv did not surprise me, because since boyhood I have traversed the paths and difficulties of history as well as the difficulties that accompany any person who wishes to achieve a noble and honorable goal, and peace is the most noble and honorable goal. I was expecting that the peace process would face enemies on its path, however, this expectation in no way makes me less affected by what happened in Tel Aviv, because once again the innocent are paying the price. I consider this crime to have been committed not only against innocent people but against peace. This is the aspect on which we should focus, because we have to protect the peace process from all dangers that might threaten it.

[Ya'ari] Your Majesty, in your view how can one deal with the phenomenon of violence in the region?

[Hassan] With regard to resisting violence, there are deterrent measures which I leave to the experts to deal with, whether it is from the Israeli or Palestinian side. As a statesman, however, I believe that we are now in a race against time. We must race ahead of time. We have to resist violence successfully and with goodness. As you are aware, after Hassan I arrived in Morocco—before that there was no king in Morocco—he was chosen by the Moroccans because they asked him: "How will you respond if people treat you nicely?" He answered: "I will treat them nicely." They asked again: "And how will you respond if people treat you in a bad way?" He said: "I will treat them nicely." They said: "What will you do if they keep treating you in a bad way?" He answered: "I will treat them nicely so that good will overcome evil."

We are not in a soccer field where if one side scores a goal the other side has to score one, too, so that the two sides would be even or one side will win by violence, fighting, and victims. Undoubtedly, grief has not left a single home alone in this region, either from the Palestinians or the Israelis. I believe that in this joint tragedy and in the corpses of the victims they must find a bridge on which to build peace, without paying heed to the past. Therefore, we must protect the peace process by political means and a firm belief so that it will be immune to any dangers. Peace should prevail and should have the last word.

[Ya'ari] Your Majesty, the Kingdom of Morocco has fulfilled an important and known role in establishing peace and laying of bridges between Israel and the Arab states. What, in your view, is Morocco's role in the coming stage, the stage of materialization of peace?

[Hassan] Morocco's role, in this context and above all, is to stand alongside peace, because Morocco is a country of history. Morocco has also studied history. In the history of mankind we are not aware of any war that has not ended in peace. Therefore, for war to end in peace we have to stop fighting as soon as possible. This is Morocco's position and this is the motive that has always led me to try and reach peace. At the same time, we have always said that the Arabs' rights must be restored and that Israel should exist within secure and internationally recognized borders. Neither side should remain stagnant. No, there must be cooperation and association between them—an association that had existed for many centuries and which fostered ingenuity in that part of the Arab world.

[Ya'ari] In 1985, I believe, Your Majesty mentioned the possibility of Israel joining the Arab League. Is that idea still on the agenda today?

[Hassan] At that time I was the crown prince and I was not directly holding a position of responsibility. I was on a private visit to Lebanon when the idea came to my mind, but those who heard it attributed it to the fact that I was a young man who perhaps is a novice and unaware of such issues. I must assert, however, that if at that time the Arabs had accepted Israel in the Arab League they would have saved a great deal of territory. Since 1985 they have lost much land and many lives and have suffered many losses. They would have saved time and lengthy negotiations to regain territory. They would have saved a great deal, but history cannot be reshaped on a piece of paper, as historians do.

[Ya'ari] Unfortunately. Your Majesty, with regard to bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and Israel, when can we expect the diplomatic representation between the two countries to be upgraded from liaison offices, at present, to embassies? When will there be direct flights between Casablanca and Tel Aviv? When will other commercial agreements between the two countries be concluded?

[Hassan] First of all, liaison offices do not have any diplomatic status [last two words in French]. This has been recognized in the Hague and New York agreements, but Morocco's situation is different. It is the only Arab country which has a community of over 100,000 Jews of Moroccan origin. As you are aware, our laws stipulate that one cannot be stripped from his citizenship. As far as we are concerned, Jews of Moroccan origin are still Moroccans for many reasons, not only for legal reasons. They still have close family, religious, and commercial ties with their relatives in Morocco.

We do not prevent anyone from visiting the graves of his ancestors or from visiting his brother or uncle. Rather, we have always opened the doors to Moroccans. I consider them to be my children even though now they live in Israel. Maintaining family ties is one of the most important obligations in Islam. It is inconceivable that I cut family ties, because the Prophet, God's peace and prayers be upon him, always stressed family ties and he is my Lord. Morocco's situation is different from that of other Arab countries, because we have an important community. We had the obligation to maintain its interests, not on the diplomatic level, but at this stage on the level of liaison offices.

[Ya'ari] And with regard to progress in what is being called now normalization of relations between Israel and Morocco?

[Hassan] Undoubtedly, the path on which we are moving—the peace process—will lead to normalization, because as a European adage says: A river flows forward, not backward. History is like a river, but right now I cannot give you a specific timetable for normalization. There is no doubt that if Morocco is considered a basic factor in sponsoring the peace process, this should be neither hasty nor delayed. It must be in between and always weighing the issues. As Lenin said: Sometimes options should be weighed with the egg of an ant. This is what led Morocco to do what it did and, at the same time, keep the respect of its Arab brothers, the Israelis, and many countries of the world. Let us leave this issue for the right conditions, first of all, and for an assessment of the timing, bearing in mind that the goal and the future are clear.

[Ya'ari] Your Highness, what is the secret behind the special relationship between the Jewish community and the royal family?

[Hassan] One reason only: Moroccans, be they Muslims or Jews, consider themselves citizens, and no group refrains from carrying out its obligations toward its country. In addition, the Islamic kingdom that has existed in Morocco for 1,200 years, since King Idris, makes it incumbent upon the king to show tolerance toward—I do not say to protect; this is a narrow definition—every person living on his land, despite differences in religion and nationality.

Moreover, as you are aware, Muslims and Jews had a common experience when they lived in Spain and when they left that country. They did not leave separately but as one group, whose members supported each other.

[Ya'ari] Your Majesty, people in Israel ask: When will Your Majesty visit holy Jerusalem, following the many visits by Yitzhaq Rabin and other Israeli leaders to Morocco?

[Hassan] As you are aware, apart from being a religious person, I am also very spiritual. I believe that after the hajj and the visit to Ka'aba and the Prophet's tomb, the visit to Jerusalem is the best thing that a spiritual person can aspire to in his lifetime. In addition, I am certain that when I visit, the Israeli people will receive me with great warmth and happiness....

[Ya'ari, interrupting] No doubt.

[Hassan] As an Arab adage says: There is a time for everything. When the time comes, and I hope it will be as soon as possible, I will undertake that visit. I hope that the issue of Jerusalem will be resolved in the best way possible. As you are aware, I am chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, but this does not mean that I have decisionmaking authority. The Jerusalem Committee does not comprise only Arabs but Muslims from all over the world. Therefore, I am stating my own private viewpoint. I personally believe that the issue of Jerusalem should be dealt with at the end of the peace process, so that we will not mix the religious aspect with the political one.

[Ya'ari] The issue is being raised now because of the Israeli-Jordanian agreement and because of competition between the Palestinians and Jordanians over the religious sites.

[Hassan] But the current dispute is not about sovereignty over Jerusalem but about trusteeship of the religious sites. I consider this a marginal dispute in relation to the issue as a whole.

[Ya'ari] What is Your Majesty's stance on the statement or idea that sovereignty over Jerusalem should be divine? I am referring is to agreement on a joint Islamic-Jewish-Christian formula to administer the religious sites of the three religions.

[Hassan] I am ready to examine carefully and faithfully every proposal and idea that enables us to emerge from the current situation into a better one, treats the three religions on an equal basis, takes into account the sensitivities and national traits, and deals equally with everyone.

[Ya'ari] In conclusion, Your Majesty, do you have a message to our many viewers, especially the Moroccan Jews who are now watching this interview in our studio in Jerusalem? Any statement in conclusion?

[Hassan] I say to them that had there not been a peace process, I would not have had this opportunity to address the Israelis, be they our children of Moroccan origin or others. Therefore, this peace or peace process is what opened this channel for ties and contacts between us. Let us continue on this path, so that we will not need television in order to recognize or talk to each other; rather, we should establish contact and hold discussions, sometimes even intensely but directly, bearing in mind that despite the distance, we hold each other's hands for the prosperity of mankind and the promotion of the believers of the three religions—Jewish, Christian, and Islamic—all of which spring from our forefather Abraham, may peace be upon him.

[Ya'ari] In the name of all our viewers, thank you very much, Your Majesty.

Filali on Relations With France, EU, Algeria

LD2410142294 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Oct. 24 (MAP)—Moroccan Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali described Moroccan-French relations as exemplary but deplored the fact that French entrepreneurs are still routine-minded.

In an interview with 'THE MONITOR OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE' magazine, Filali expressed hope that French economic executives show greater interest in the ongoing privatization program in Morocco pointing out that 'in addition to our neighbors in the north, new competing countries, such as China, are on the race'.

Filali who visited France this October 11-12 voiced disappointment at the ongoing discussions with the European Union but said Morocco is expecting a great deal from the union when France takes over the EU rotating chairmanship next January.

We are not at all satisfied with discussions for an accord between Morocco and the European Union, he said before recalling that under the Portuguese chairmanship in 1992, the union adopted a proposal mandate based on the principle of equal treatment between East European countries and south Mediterranean ones. However, he noted, discussions are facing obstacles as the topics of discussion remain far from what was agreed upon initially.

Filali, who underlined that Morocco is a specific case, said the kingdom is expecting a lot from the visit Chairman of the European Commission Jacques Delors is to pay to Morocco end of this month.

Asked to comment on the situation in Algeria, Filali said 'it is out of the question that we interfere in our neighbors' affairs, but certainly, we are following with interest any development likely to defuse tensions in the Maghreban country.

Economic Cooperation Agreements Signed With Poland

LD2410143294 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Morocco and Poland have signed two cooperation agreements related to the financial and economic sector. Hasan Nasir has the details:

[Nasir] Within the framework of the visit which Mr. Leslaw Podkansky, Polish minister for foreign economic cooperation, is making at the head of a delegation of businessmen and economists, the Polish minister signed two cooperation agreements in Rabat this morning with Mr. Mourad Cherif, minister of foreign trade, foreign investment [and handicrafts]. The first is concerned with a financial treaty on avoiding double taxation. The second is concerned with the encouragement of investments and mutual protection for them by Morocco and Poland. [passage omitted]

Bilateral Trade With Sudan Discussed

LD2110140094 Rabat MAP in English 1309 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Oct.21 (MAP)—Means to energize trade between Morocco and Sudan topped talks held here Thursday [20 October] between Moroccan Minister of Trade, Industry, Handicraft and Foreign Trade Driss Jattou and visiting Sudanese Minister of Planning 'Uthman Muhammad Taha. The two officials underscored the role of the private sector in enhancing bilateral trade exchange and agreed to develop trade cooperation between the two countries.

In another meeting, the Sudanese official and speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives Jalal Essaid discussed means to develop cooperation between the two countries' legislative institutions.

Minister Forecasts 1994 Economic Growth

LD2110145494 Rabat MAP in English 1244 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Oct.21 (MAP)—After a regression of growth during two years due to drought effects, the Moroccan economy is expected to register in 1994 a growth rate of 11 percent, said Thursday Moroccan Minister of Finance and Investments Mourad Cherif.

Talking at a cabinet council which was examining the 1995 appropriation bill project, the minister said the 1994 good growth rate is due to positive performance of the primary sector resulting from a good cereal production but also to a recovery of the secondary and tertiary sectors which are expected to progress by 3.3 percent after a stagnation in 1993.

He explained the low non-agricultural production growth by two factors: The delayed spin-off until 1995 from the positive results of the agricultural sector and the slow economic recovery of Morocco's trade partners.

According to the minister, difficulties in carrying out the budget are due to the government's social measures and to the fact that 1994 growth was mainly made possible by the primary sector which does not impact directly on budget revenues, at the same time an increase in the price of some imported products entailed higher public expenses. Higher prices of imported products and resulting additional expenses represented strong pressures on the public treasury, he added. Therefore, he went on, to safeguard gains of the adjustment and economic growth, the Moroccan Government should set forth appropriate measures to contain financing needs of the treasury within economically and socially affordable limits.

The minister went on to say that the living cost index is expected to stand at 5 percent and, though this level is higher than the 4 percent initially projected, it is part of the inflation curbing as it consolidates the price reduction process and safeguards the country's competitive position in external markets.

Meanwhile, economy financing was made in more favorable conditions than in the past. Credits to the economy will increase by some 13 percent in comparison with 8.7 percent in 1993. This progression is taking place in a context marked by an important easing of interest rates which dropped by 4 points in a year, he explained.

The Moroccan economy external viability was also consolidated in 1994 and the deficit of the balance of payments will be maintained around 2 percent of the gross national product despite important interest rates of external debts, which represent 4.2 percent of the GNP, he added.

He went on to say that the budget policy was supported by a series of economic and financial measures such as: Improving financing conditions of enterprises, carrying on the reform of the financial sector, speeding up the privatization process, improving the loaning system to young promoters and setting up a fund for the promotion of youth employment of undergraduates.

After this presentation, the cabinet decided to carry on the study of the appropriation bill project at a coming meeting.

Sudan

Foreign Ministry Summons U.S. Ambassador

EA2410172494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry this afternoon summoned the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum to express its disapproval of the statement issued by the U.S. State Department on 18 October which gave an imprecise accord of the shantytown incident in the suburb of (Khudayr) in Omdurman and brought baseless charges to bear against the government. The circumstances surrounding the incident were explained to the ambassador. The view of the foreign ministry is that the United States is attempting to exploit ordinary events to make unjustifiable attacks on the Sudanese Government. The U.S. Embassy in Khartoum did not take into account the need to obtain information from its sources in that it failed to contact any official quarter to ascertain the legal steps taken to transfer the residents of the randomly built area to another area suitable for housing.

The unacceptable conduct of the U.S. Embassy in dealing with such matters contradicts the Sudanese Government's wish to normalize relations between the two states on the basis of the United States taking into account Sudan's sovereignty and showing full respect for the principles of justice and human rights and Sudan's consistent and declared course towards building a new political system based on the full participation of the people in governing the country and achieving peace and stability as a means of national development and construction.

Al-Turabi on Algeria, 'Arafat, Hamas

NC2410223494 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Oct 94 p 10

[Interview with Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front, by Muhammad Shuraydah, in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shuraydah] What is the truth about your mediation in Algeria and what happened at the meeting of the Sudanese and Algerian presidents on the sidelines of the Libyan Revolution celebrations in Tripoli?

[Al-Turabi] There were meetings between the Sudanese and Algerian presidents. I have heard that the Algerian president was displeased with Hasan al-Turabi's statements published in all the Spanish newspapers to the effect that Islam will storm the whole of North Africa. I have heard that the Sudanese president told him: Should any Muslim be angry if Islam storms North Africa or even the northern Mediterranean region? We ask that Almighty God let Islam storm the world. Regarding the Algerian Government's information that Sudan trains Islamic groups, this information has come to them from the biggest Arab liars.

[Shuraydah] Who are the biggest Arab liars?

[Al-Turabi] God knows them, and there is no need to identify them. The French Government and other Western governments have now realized that no groups are being trained in Sudan. Hence, they have completely ceased talking about this subject.

As for charges that dispute my statement that I am seeking mediation and that I am handling some of the mediation efforts personally and with the help of others, these efforts at mediation have taken place. However, first of all, it was not I who made this statement on mediation efforts involving the Algerian Government, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], France, and Sudan. I did not make this statement because I wanted to keep the matter confidential. However, the news was leaked in France and I was asked about it. I correctly said there was nothing of this sort.

[Shuraydah] Does mean that you have really been undertaking mediation?

[Al-Turabi] This mediation is going on despite the denials.

[Shuraydah] What do you expect from this mediation? Do you expect early results?

[Al-Turaybi] I don't claim that the mediation efforts will definitely achieve the desired results. However, even if some of its wings have adopted an extremist stand by saying there is nothing between them and the government except jihad, there is a possibility that the FIS will accept a transitional period and a return to freedom and responsible democratic choice. [passage omitted]

[Shuraydah] Are the French involved in these contacts?

[Al-Turabi] Of course, they are involved in these contacts.

[Shuraydah] With the Algerian Government or with the FIS?

[Al-Turabi] With all of us. France is not the only European country that is concerned with Algeria's fate and is not the only state that contacts me.

[Shuryadah] Does this mean there are other states?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, but I will not name them because they have not said anything yet. [passage omitted]

[Shuraydah] You recently called for establishing a religious alliance. Does this mean moving toward establishing a sort of religion-oriented world movement [umamiyah diniyah]?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. Most of the world is, in fact, not religious. The absence of religion in economics, politics, sciences, and the arts has spread throughout society. This is why I called on those who believe and who are really religious to establish a religious front that believes in God, morals, and the afterlife so that we can fight the disease of atheism which is now afflicting the world. Many have responded; some have stayed silent.

[Shuraydah] You have taken a stand which is closer to one of support for the Gaza-Jericho agreement despite your close ties with the Islamic Palestinian organizations. What is your real stand on the agreement?

[Al-Turabi] I support the collective Islamic-Arabic stand that refuses to let the Zionists usurp a land and expel its people. I am also against any concessions on the UN legitimacy which wants a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel. This is the stand. I could not speak before the Islamic Popular Conference, of which I am the secretary general, while it was debating the issue. I opened the door for them to do so and the views pro and con were discussed. But the conference rejected this signed agreement. But we, the Sudanese people, do not want to attack or condemn the person who signed the agreement, because we know that he did not do so of his own volition but was compelled by necessity as a result of the situation in the Arab world, which is currently rushing to endear itself to Israel. Sudan, alone with Iraq, has stayed aloof from all this.

[Shuraydah] Does this stand not excuse what Yasir 'Arafat has done?

[Al-Turabi] No. We do not want to attack him. It is enough that he was a symbol and the leader of Fatah and the Palestinian cause for a time. We believe that to differ with him is one thing, but to condemn him is something else. There is another thing. We do not believe that he should be the target of this attack. Can you not see that Sudan is the only country not rushing toward Israel now?

[Shuraydah] But don't you believe that 'Arafat's move was a reason and an excuse for the other Arabs to rush after him toward peace with Israel?

[Al-Turabi] No. We should not be unfair to the man. He was compelled to do so because the world around him collapsed. He was going to be expelled from the place he was staying. Where would he have gone? He was mistreated and deprived of funds. He knew of the contacts between other countries and Israel. I do not want to isolate him and say that he is the reason for all that has happened. This is the consequence of the Gulf War in which the Arab world was fragmented and defeated. The defeated ones were thrashed. Those loyal to the West were beaten, turned into debtors, and degraded. The status of Israel and the United States rose while that of Russia was shaken. We know the circumstances that led the Arabs into the pit of humiliation.

[Shuraydah] You mediated between 'Arafat and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the past. Is this mediation continuing?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. I thought that I had achieved reconciliation but I did not know that secret negotiations were going on in northern Europe. Thus the mediation stopped. But I am still talking to both sides to this day. I do not want relations between them to turn into an armed struggle in the two municipalities' [Gaza and Jericho] streets, because all the television cameras will focus on the Arabs so as to cover up Israel's actions. [passage omitted]

[Shuraydah] Are you expecting any results from this mediation?

[Al-Turabi] No one knows what the political fate of the two municipalities will be when the elections are held, especially as Israel is exerting great pressure. There is room for a minimum level of action to make both sides stop the struggle, even if their stands differ. [passage omitted]

Minister Calls On Italy To Lift EU Embargo

BR2410153594 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 24 Oct 94 p 10

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Ghazi Salah-al-Din al-Attabani by Fabio Scuto in Khartoum; date not given: "There Is an Islam That Wants Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum—[passage omitted] The Sudanese Government now makes a great display of amenability toward the West, to show that Sudan represents the presentable face of Islam. Are they in earnest? "The surrender, with no strings attached, of one of the world's most wanted terrorists, Carlos," Sudanese Foreign Minister Ghazi Salah-al-Din al-Attabani stated unambiguously. "Carlos' arrest was partly the result of this new climate of cooperation that we want to create—open and uninhibited," Attabani went on, seated in a drawing room of the governor's palace, which was once Gordon's residence in the city where the White Nile meets the Blue, to flow on to the land of the pharaohs, and which is now the seat of the Sudanese presidency. In the entrance hall of the beautiful building there is still on display a 45-caliber five-barreled Enfield machine gun, a prototype that the British Ministry of War sent to Gordon to try out against Mahdi's rebels. The defender of Khartoum died in 1855 in this very building, while the dervishes plundered the city. "Right here," Minister al-Attabani said, pointing to the penultimate step of a staircase. "He was trying to reach the river to attempt an impossible escape."

"You westerners," al-Attabani went on "suspect us because this government has a different kind of determination, but we seek peace and harmony, otherwise there will be nothing but destruction in the world. We must engage in dialogue, because the start of real economic development in the countries of the Maghreb or in countries such as ours will spare southern Europe a tide of emigres, with all that this would entail." "The problem is," al-Attabani said, "that Europe has always supported the old regimes in the Arab world, which this Arab reawakening is sweeping away, bringing an end to glaring injustices. Look at Algeria, where, unless that grave crisis is ended, the earthquake now shaking the Maghreb and Egypt will spread to Europe too."

"With France we have already started some kind of dialogue and we would like to do so with Italy too, a country toward which we feel very well disposed." However, al-Attabani said in essence that Italy must gain some freedom of maneuver with respect to the U.S. foreign policy, and complained that he was treated like a "leper" during his visit to Rome with [spiritual leader] Hasan al-Turabi, ignored by our Foreign Ministry, where he was made to meet with Ambassador Bottai, then the ministry's secretary general. Al-Attabani hopes that this insult will not be repeated by Italy's new minister. "We want to be able to show that we are not as we are described by the United States, which is why we are asking Italy to intercede vis-a-vis the European Union, with a view to its lifting the embargo on us, which prevents profitable economic relations. I can assure you that if Italy and Sudan had trade relations, your country would not be disappointed. Oil deposits have been discovered for over 10 years, and all we are asking for are refineries and pipelines to bring the oil to Port Sudan. And yet the countries that we have approached—Canada, France, and Britain—have refused, for political reasons, despite the certainty that they would make profits."

Representatives of the regime display great solidarity with regard to the Shariah, the Islamic law which administers the country. "Remember, this is first and foremost an Arab country," Minister al-Attabani said, bringing our conversation to an end, but by that time the image of a country constrained by the strict dictates of the Koran had already been dispelled. [passage omitted]

Government Supports Peace Efforts in Somalia

AB2210195794 Paris AFP in English 1459 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Oct 22 (AFP)—Sudan supports efforts to bring back stability to Somalia and put an end to problems facing the Horn of Africa nation, Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir said Saturday [22 October].

General al-Bashir reiterated his country's support at a meeting with a Somali delegation led by the president of the Somali Patriotic Front Abdul Rahman Ahmed Ali, presently in Sudan as part of a tour of Horn of Africa countries, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported.

Ali briefed al-Bashir on the situation in the war-torn country and on Somali and international efforts to bring about reconciliation, stability, peace and national unity.

The meeting came ahead of a Somali reconciliation conference to be held in Mogadishu Tuesday. The conference aims to reconcile Somalia's 16 warring factions and iron out differences among them to allow formation of a government based on a federal system.

State Governor Says Peace 'Now Imminent'

EA2210150594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Joseph Agwang, governor of Northern Bahr al-Ghazal State, said that true peace is now imminent, confirming that the state is witnessing a large influx of returnees from the rebel movement. He explained that true peace is the people's right to decide. The governor commended the Armed Forces, the unified police, and the People's Defense for helping the state government during the floods.

Official: Rebels Kidnap 5,000 Refugee Children

EA2410195694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-Dawm, the general commissioner for voluntary work and chairman of the committee entrusted with tackling the question of children detained by the rebel movement, has said that the movement continues to kidnap children, turn them into soldiers of the rebel red army, and throw them into battle. His excellency said in a press conference held by the committee at the Ministry of Culture and Information today that reports received indicated that 5,000 children had been smuggled out of the refugee camps in Kenya and taken into Sudan with the aim of turning them into soldiers. The committee recently issued a statement on the issue describing how the children were kidnapped and used by the rebel movement. The committee held the international community responsible for what was happening to these children.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister: Saddam 'Elephant With an Ant's Brain'

AU2410183794 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 24 Oct 94 pp 178, 181

[Interview with Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Ant's Brain"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Your Highness, the Americans are still transferring troops to your emirate. Has the Iraqi threat not been averted for a long time now?

[Al-Sabah] We had the great hope that the so-called Iraqi Parliament would formally announce recognition of our state. Instead, the deputies engaged in verbal abuses of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, of President Mubarak of Egypt, and of the Amir of Kuwait. We wish that the Iraqi people would soon be freed from the scourge of Saddam Husayn. The Iraqis have suffered enough; Saddam alone is responsible for their misfortune.

[DER SPIEGEL] So the mediation attempt by Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev has been unsuccessful?

[Al-Sabah] The Russians' problem is that they still believe in Saddam Husayn, even if it is just a little. A few days ago Foreign Minister Kozyrev came to us and enthused: "We have achieved a breakthrough; I have dragged recognition of Kuwait out of Saddam Husayn's throat." Unfortunately it quickly transpired that one could not speak of a breakthrough at all.

[DER SPIEGEL] What would Iraq have to do to satisfy Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] After the attack on Kuwait four years ago, the regime in Baghdad declared my country to be the 19th province of Iraq. This annexation was officially proclaimed by the Iraqi Government, accepted by the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and the Iraqi National Assembly, and then approved by the national leadership of the Ba'th Party. This must be officially rescinded in exactly the same order. In addition, the government newspaper must publish the text of the formal recognition of Kuwait.

[DER SPIEGEL] So that all Iraqis understand that their government has given in?

[Al-Sabah] Nothing must remain ambiguous. Furthermore, all school textbooks that teach that Kuwait is the 19th province of Iraq must be withdrawn. And the more than 600 Kuwaiti prisoners who are still being held by Baghdad must be permitted to return home as soon as possible.

[DER SPIEGEL] The United Nations has newly laid down the border between Iraq and Kuwait, which was arbitrarily drawn up by British colonial officials. As a result, the Iraqis have lost their last intact sea port—'Umm Kasr—including the naval base.

[Al-Sabah] You are talking almost like Saddam Husayn. The new border is just. We did not get one inch of Iraqi territory from the United Nations. On the contrary, the Iraqis got 700 square meters more than they are actually entitled to. Baghdad cannot justify robberies of its neighbors by claiming that its coastal strip is too narrow.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Iraqi Government claims that almost 3 million people have died of the effects of the embargo so far. Even if this number is exaggerated, should living conditions be now eased at least a little?

[Al-Sabah] Saddam Husayn pretends that we alone imposed the sanctions against Iraq. The UN Security Council has given the Iraqi Government permission to sell crude oil to the value of $1.6 billion per year to pay for urgently needed food and pharmaceuticals. Why does Saddam Husayn not use this opportunity, if his people are really suffering so much? There is no famine in Iraq. Have you ever seen pictures from Baghdad that looked like those from Somalia? This whining on the part of the Iraqis is nothing but propaganda.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you demand that the sanctions remain in force until Saddam Husayn falls?

[Al-Sabah] It is not within the power of a small emirate such as Kuwait to overthrow the regime; we are keeping our hands off such an adventure. We do not want the Iraqi people to suffer. However, the sanctions can be lifted only if the leadership in Baghdad finally fulfills all the UN resolutions in their entirety.

[DER SPIEGEL] Saddam's overthrow might lead to a breakup of Iraq. Would you feel more secure next to a split-up neighbor?

[Al-Sabah] Iraq is not Saddam Husayn and Saddam Husayn is not Iraq. This country will continue to exist even when the tyrant does not exist any more. We insist on the maintenance of the integrity of Iraq's territory at all costs.

[DER SPIEGEL] The UN Security Council and the allies have declared no-fly zones over both the north and the south of Iraq. Now it is being considered whether to prohibit Baghdad from deploying ground forces in the south. Is this leading to a division of the country into three parts?

[Al-Sabah] This was not our idea. We just want to have the security and inviolability of our northern border guaranteed. The latest Security Council resolution is quite clear: In the future Iraq is to be prohibited from having troops march in the direction of Kuwait. If Iraq violates this condition, it will be militarily punished.

[DER SPIEGEL] The weaker Iraq becomes, the easier it is for Iran to present itself as the superior power in the Gulf region. Whom do you fear more—the mullah regime or Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Sabah] There are excellent relations between Kuwait and Iran. I would like to use this opportunity to ask Iran publicly—via DER SPIEGEL—for forgiveness that we supported Iraq in the war against Iran from 1980-88. At that time we made a big mistake. Nevertheless, Iran was noble enough to take our side when Saddam Husayn invaded our country.

[DER SPIEGEL] This does not change anything about the fact that you and Saudi Arabia are interested in not shifting the balance of power in the Gulf region too much to Iran's advantage.

[Al-Sabah] Iran does not threaten us. What made Iraq invade Kuwait in 1990? And why did Iraq threaten us again on 6 October? I wonder whether Saddam Husayn still has all his marbles. Has he enlarged his room for maneuver with this provocation? Quite the contrary. This tyrant is acting like an elephant with an ant's brain. If Saddam enters the ring once again, he will be knocked out.

UK British Defense Secretary Rifkind Pays Visit

Urges Iraq To Observe UN Resolutions

LD2410174494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind arrived in Kuwait this evening on a two-day official visit. He was welcomed by the defense minister, Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah, and a number of senior officials of the Defense Ministry, and military officers.

In a statement after his arrival, the British defense secretary stressed the United Kingdom's support for the need for the Iraqi regime to implement all the UN resolutions pertaining to the war for the liberation of Kuwait. He also stressed Britain's appreciation of the international community's rapid reaction to face and thwart any Iraqi provocation against the State of Kuwait.

He added that the Iraqi regime is losing credibility in the international community, pointing out that the head of the Iraqi regime has a long history of procrastination and prevarication in implementing UN resolutions. The British defense secretary said that the Iraqi regime's behavior of massing troops near the Kuwaiti border confirmed the hostile nature of that regime and the extent of its threat to its neighbors and the region. Rifkind stressed the need for the Iraqi regime to abandon its ambitions in the region.

Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah welcomed the British minister. He said that an official meeting between the Kuwaiti and British sides will be held later today to discuss cooperation and coordination between the two friendly countries.

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD2410190194 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, today received British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind. The meeting covered bilateral relations and the means to strengthen them in all fields in addition to a review of the recent developments in the region.

Announces Sale of Starburst Missiles

LD2510101394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 25 Oct—British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind has announced that he signed a 50 million pound [sterling] deal with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud to supply Kuwait with a number of Starburst missiles.

Rifkind, who arrived here yesterday, signed the deal with his Kuwaiti counterpart last night in the presence of a number of senior officials in the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry.

Says Coalition To Remain Until Danger Over

LD2510112694 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind left the country this afternoon at the end of his two-day official visit. [passage omitted]

The British defense secretary, in a news conference with [Kuwaiti Defense Minister] Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah, stressed Britain's firm support for the State of Kuwait and the continuing presence of coalition troops in the country until the Iraqi danger to Kuwait's international borders has ended.

The Kuwaiti defense minister praised Britain's support for the State of Kuwait in confronting Iraqi threats. He also praised dealings and coordination, particularly in the military field, with coalition states and Gulf Cooperation Council members.

UNIKOM Commander: Iraqi Border Zone 'Calm'

LD2410223694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, Oct 24—Krishna Thapa, commander of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission [UNIKOM], today confirmed that the situation "is calm" in the demilitarized zone on the borders between Kuwait and Iraq. [passage omitted]

It is to be recalled that UNIKOM is monitoring any breaches of the cease-fire agreement along the UN demarcated Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders.

Speaker Attacks Jordan's Support for Iraq

LD2410194494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1835 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dateline, passage indistinct] Ahmad al-Sa'dun, the speaker of the Kuwaiti Parliament, has commented on the latest remarks by the King of Jordan regarding the recent tension caused by the Iraqi regime massing its troops on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders. These statements, Al-Sa'dun said, contained not a single remark condemning the Iraqi aggression or even a call for the need for the Iraqi regime to implement all UN Security Council resolutions.

He went on to say: Even the King of Jordan's recent statement in which he said he would not approve of an Arab country carrying out aggression against another Arab country, could not be misinterpreted; any precautionary measures taken by the State of Kuwait could be interpreted by Jordan as being an act of aggression by Kuwait against Iraq!

Al-Sa'dun said that on 6 October, 18 Jordanian political parties issued statements supporting Iraq. Two of those parties have recently withdrawn their support. He added: That is why we say that those who would like to change their stances regarding Iraq should do so openly by incriminating and condemning the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait, calling on Iraq to implement all UN Security Council resolutions, and blaming it for the continuation of the current situation in the Arab homeland.

He said: I wish Jordan would not speak about the return of Arab peace until the Iraqi regime accepts all the UN resolutions, particularly concerning the border demarcation and release of POW's.

He added: I am not going to be polite with anyone, and I cannot ignore the fact that King Husayn was one of the main reasons for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He was a main party, and I cannot say otherwise to people.

He pointed out Jordan's support for Iraq at the international parliamentary conference, when Iraq called for the lifting of sanctions imposed on it. He said that Jordan's support implied that Iraq had already implemented all the UN Security Council resolutions, and he pointed to Jordan' solidarity with the Iraqi position.

Speaker Denies Meeting With Iraqi Official

LD2410220894 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd al-Aziz al-Sa'dun has stressed the falsehood of the Jordanian AL-RAYAH newspaper reports about an alleged meeting between him and the deputy speaker of the so-called Iraqi National Council during an international parliamentary conference held in Copenhagen in September.

Ahmad al-Sa'dun described what that newspaper published—quoting the chairman of the Sudanese Transitional National Council after he reportedly played the role of a mediator in the alleged meeting—as being impudence which only a special kind of person who is an expert in charlatanism, would dare to perpetrate.

This was said by the speaker of the National Assembly in an extended meeting with the local press, and carried by KUNA.

Ahmad al-Sa'dun also said that it was not strange for a Jordanian newspaper to publish false news, quoting Khartoum.

The National Assembly speaker revealed that a cable signed by 18 members of the Jordanian parliament called on Kuwaiti parliamentarians to reflect on what was taking place in the region's arena so that stability could be returned. The speaker pointed out that this cable shows that there is an organized campaign between the Iraqi regime after it realized that it failed to to convince the international community of its credibility. [sentence as heard]

The National Assembly speaker stressed the need for the Iraqi regime to implement all the international resolutions, and praised UN Security Council Resolution No. 949.

Ahmad al-Sa'dun also welcomed the visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton to the country, pointing out that this visit is considered to be clear support for the resolutions of the international community and for the cohesiveness of the

Report Notes Public Fear of 'War of Bills'

NC2410175994

[Editorial Report] The Egyptian Arabic-language newspaper AL-AKHBAR publishes on page 4 of its 19 October edition a 4,000-word report from Kuwait by Wajih Abu-Dhikri, in which he talks about "the war of bills" raging on the Kuwaiti territories among the allies who rushed to Kuwait's help when Saddam Husayn massed his troops on the borders. The report notes a Kuwaiti apprehension of the Iraqi threats as well as of the "hefty bill" they have to pay to the allies to neutralize these threats.

The report notes that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher presented to Kuwait "a bill covering the cost of protecting the Gulf states against Saddam Husayn's expansionist ambitions." Asked by a Kuwaiti reporter how much this protection would cost, Kuwaiti Information Minister Sa'ud Bin-Nasir al-Sabah replied that the state's existence and the people's future were at stake. The reporter is of the opinion that the U.S. bill "is exaggerated." According to semi-official sources, the cost amounts to $1 billion per month, apart from transport expenses, to be borne by three Gulf states.

According to Abu-Dhikri, the Kuwaiti people are worried because the government had to withdraw funds from "a major deposit that had been placed in trust at American and European banks for future generations." They fear that the bill might "grow bigger" in case of military operations and that "Kuwait might shift from a life of prosperity to one of need."

Some Kuwaitis believe that it was the Arab role, particularly that of Egypt and Saudi Arabia, that legitimized the world alliance in 1990 and enabled it to confront Saddam Husayn. These people believe that the total absence of an Arab role in the present crisis will have very serious consequences in the future.

Abu-Dhikri was told by "a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official, who requested anonymity" that the Kuwaitis trust the Egyptian armed forces, but that they do not trust any other forces. The official said that "Iraqi oil is being transported via some Arab states and Turkey," and that arms and ammunition reach Iraq through certain Arab states, whom Iraq pays off to break the blockade.

Noting that the Kuwaitis are concerned about the differences among the allies, which they view as "a war of bills," Abu-Dhikri notes that the Kuwaitis wanted the allies to launch a "protective strike" against the Iraqi troops, set up a 100-km deep demilitarized zone in Iraq, and "add the cost of massing and maintaining allied troops to Iraq's bill, particularly since Iraq's oil reserves are far greater than Kuwait's." But the French and Russian position aborted all these attempts, Abu-Dhikri notes.

The writer continues: "The Kuwaitis feel that their small, rich state has forever become the target of ambition for both the Iraqi neighbor and the allied states. These states might incite Saddam every time they want to collect a bill. The Kuwaitis have no idea how long this dirty game will continue; the game of massing troops, calling allied forces, and hence paying a hefty bill."

Asked about their vision of the future, the Kuwaitis find no definite answer. They believe that the presence of the allied forces depends on "paying the bills without delay." They are aware that the "Desert Shield troops" need years to be able to confront the Iraqi troops. They also know that some Arab troops are "untrustworthy." Even if Iraq recognizes Kuwait's borders and pledges not to touch them, Saddam has already succeeded in convincing the Iraqis that Kuwait is part of Iraq. Moreover, the writer adds, the Kuwaitis believe that there is no chance of getting rid of Saddam at present, because he poses no threat whatsoever to the allied forces. On the contrary, his presence might be useful for them.

The writer says that some people believe that what is happening now in the Gulf can be traced back to an "old scheme" that started when the world realized "the Arab potential" and the fact that Arab lands control Western culture with their oil wealth. Led by Henry Kissinger, he says, the scheme to "Balkanize the Middle East" was launched to control the oil potentials and turn the region into countries fighting each other. Hence the Lebanese civil war, followed by the Iran-Iraq war, "in which the CIA played a major role," and finally the invasion of Kuwait. A large portion of Arab wealth was depleted that way. Some oil-producing countries have even mortgaged their oil to banks for years to come, Abu-Dhikri says.

The writer then proceeds to viewing the situation in Iraq, noting that Saddam has granted "extraordinary powers" to the armed forces, the Republican Guards, and the intelligence apparatus. He refers to the new "phenomenon of the disappearance of well-off merchants" and the widespread arrest campaigns against politicians, thinkers, and university professors.

Minister Comments on Reducing Oil Sector Budget

LD2410154394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 24 October—Kuwait has stressed that it does not have any intentiòn of reducing the oil sector budget as a result of current circumstances but only intends to set guidelines on some oil matters. Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. 'Abd al-Muhsin Mid'aj al-Mid'aj said: "The streamlining of expenditure will not be at the expense of oil production, so the oil sector budget will not be affected. We will work to strengthen it."

Tanker Captain Admits Loading Oil at Iraqi Port

LD2410184994 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The captain of the Al Mhroussa tanker, which was intercepted in the Gulf yesterday, has admitted that his ship was loaded with diesel fuel at an Iraqi port, with the aim of exporting the cargo, which constitutes a breach of the UN embargo imposed on the Iraqi regime.

In a news conference held today on board the Al Mhroussa, the tanker's captain, Izzat Abd al-Hadi Khalifah, when asked if he knew that loading the tanker with diesel was in breach of the UN embargo imposed on the Iraqi regime, said he and all the tanker's crew were aware of this fact, but they could do nothing but obey the orders given to them to load the tanker. The tanker was handed over to the Kuwaiti Navy today by the U.S. Navy.

United Arab Emirates

Gulf Papers Discuss Clinton Mideast Visit

NC2410130994 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Oct 24 (AFP)—Gulf Arab states on Monday [24

October] urged US President Bill Clinton to save Middle East peace from the threat of militant violence by putting pressure on Israel during his regional tour this week.

Clinton should take a firm line with Israeli leaders who have continued their "maneuvers and evasiveness" since the peace process was launched three years ago, said the Saudi daily AL-NADWAH.

"Sponsorship of peace requires a serious and firm attitude from the American partner to prevent a rise in violence, which would compromise hopes of peace in the region," the newspaper said.

The AL-ITTIHAD daily in Abu Dhabi insisted that "the biggest obstacle to peace is Israel, not Damascus, Beirut or any other Arab capital."

The paper condemned Israel's continued "policy of occupation" and measures taken against Palestinians including the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip after last week's bomb attack in Tel Aviv, claimed by Palestinian Islamic militants.

The US president is to arrive in Cairo Wednesday as part of a three-day regional visit which will take in the signing ceremony of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan.

Clinton will also meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Thursday in the hope of breaking the deadlock in Israeli-Syrian track of the peace process.

Arab countries have taken "a series of goodwill measures in the hope of soliciting a sincere and neutral partnership from Washington," the Saudi newspaper AL-MADINAH said.

The paper was referring to the lifting by the six Gulf Cooperation Council states of the indirect economic boycott on Israel on September 30, and the decision by Morocco and Tunisia to launch diplomatic ties with the Jewish state.

AL-BAYAN newspaper in Dubai said the US was "not enthusiastic enough to put pressure on Israel to secure peace" in the region.

But it added "Israeli interests, whose defence is a consistent theme of American policy, cannot take precedence over US strategic interests," and that "Clinton has the opportunity to pull off a triumph in foreign policy which would make up for domestic difficulties."

British Secretary Pledges Support for Gulf States

JN2410200494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Oct (WAKH)—Roger Freeman, British secretary of state for defense procurement affairs [title as received], has stressed his country's commitment to a clear policy of supporting the Gulf States' security and stability. Britain, he said, has immediately taken action to support Kuwait in the wake of the recent Iraqi threats.

In a news conference held in Abu Dhabi this evening [23 October], the British secretary said that his country is committed to the implementation of international legitimacy represented in the Security Council resolutions. He said that his country is directly watching the situation in the gulf within the framework of his country's care for the continuation of the friendly relations and the prevalence of security and stability in the region.

On the outcome of his visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Roger Freeman said he held useful and fruitful talks with a number of senior UAE officials on the promotion of bilateral military cooperation within the context of the historic friendly relations between the two countries.

He added that he is visiting the UAE to follow up on the British prime minister's recent visit to the region and to hold consultations and exchange views with the UAE officials. He said his country is eager to supply its friends, within the framework of bilateral coordination and cooperation, with all defense requirements, including weapons, expertise, cadres, and training in order to ensure stability, security, and peace in the region. He said that every country has the right to modernize its land, marine, and air forces.

Regime Reportedly Executes Intelligence Officers

LD2510105894 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iraqi opposition group has announced that the Iraqi regime executed a number of Iraqi intelligence officers by firing squad for allegedly stealing and selling pipes used in the oil industry in southern Iraq. The pipes were worth 25 million Iraqi dinars.

The Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, in a statement issued in Tehran, says that the head of the Iraqi military intelligence was among those executed. SAIRI adds that the executions were carried out a few days ago in the intelligence headquarters in Baghdad, but the statement does not say when the alleged thefts took place or give the identity of those to whom the pipes were sold.

Nine Reportedly Killed in Antiregime Demonstration

NC2410191994 (Clandestine) Iraqi Army Radio in Arabic 1716 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi streets are seething with anger as a result of an aggravated economic crisis and the collapse of Saddam's reckless policies. All citizens are openly cursing the regime and its symbols everywhere.

A large number of people assembled in [words indistinct] and began to tear up the tyrant's pictures. The support forces first intervened and opened fire on the masses. The party's special armed security forces then intervened and opened fire. Nine persons were martyred, several others were injured, and many were arrested.

On Sunday 2 October, 1994, a number of people, mostly women, assembled in front of the Abu-Ghurayb prison. They shouted slogans against the tyrant and his criminal family.

The wave of protests is increasing in Baghdad despite the extensive presence and barbarity of the security forces to the point where the situation in Baghdad needs only a spark to erupt.

67,000 Soldiers Reportedly Flee Army in Past Year

NC2410185194 (Clandestine) Iraqi Army Radio in Arabic 1716 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi soldiers are continuing to escape from their units at the rate of 80 soldiers per day and are heading to the northern part of our dear homeland.

Our heroic soldiers have sacrificed all that is precious in defense of the homeland and have proven their manhood, steadfastness, and nobility. However, the shameful conditions they have found themselves in as a result of the tyranny of Saddam and his family has made them refuse to stay in a military service that has turned into hell as a result of the collapsing economic situation and the regime's terrorist policy against the sons of the armed forces.

A report from the General Recruitment Directorate to tyrant Saddam has admitted that 67,000 soldiers have fled the army in 12 months. The secret report also said that 116 officers of various ranks have gone to the northern parts of the precious homeland in recent months.

Saddam, Army Chief Exchange Cables on Exercise

JN2310163794 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 2 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has blessed the efforts of the valiant Iraqi Army personnel who carried out the "Golden Falcon 5" exercise.

Commenting on a cable sent by fighter Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah, Army chief of staff and director of the exercise, His Excellency Saddam Husayn said:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

May God bless the men of our courageous army and the advocates of faith, magnanimity, and distinguished jihad. We beseech Almighty God to protect our sons and brethren in the Armed Forces and to protect our great people against the machinations of the enemy and to strike them with their own evil doing. We beseech Almighty God that the efforts of our Armed forces and heroic people will yield the fruits of faith and might in this life and in the hereafter. God is all hearing.

Here is the text of the cable fighter Staff Gen. Iyad Futayyih Khalifah, the army chief of staff and director of the exercise, sent to leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies, of God and your enemies. [Koranic verse]

Your Excellency Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God protect you.

Sir, over the past five days, and with God's assistance and the determination of the courageous men of your brave army in the 1st and 2d Army Corps and other units from the 4th Army Corps, a free joint war game [lu'bat harb hurrah mushtarakah], code-named "the Golden Falcon 5," was carried out at the Army Corps level. The aim [of the exercise] was to train the commanders, staff officers, and divisions of the 1st Army Corps, and the commanders of the Air and Defense Force, the army gunships, and the surface-to-surface Missile Force, on planning and directing military operations as well as training on decision making and directing interceptive battle.

Mr. President, a large number of our officers in various command positions and higher staff bodies were trained in the biggest training activity. The objectives of the exercise were realized through practical dealing with the circumstances of the battle. With this, we have carried out your excellency's directives to engage most of the Army Corps and commands in these massive exercises.

The continuous directives of your excellency to upgrade the training level were before our eyes in all the stages of preparation and implementation, benefiting from the rich lessons drawn from the glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah Battle and the eternal Mother of Battles.

In the name of all the fighters who took part in this exercise and contributed to its success; those magnanimous men of our Armed Forces who carried out a patriotic, jihad-like, and historical deed for themselves, their families, and their grandsons at this time when all the nation's enemies mustered their forces against our glorious Iraq and the unity of its genuine people; in their name, we renew to your excellency our pledge to remain sharp swords in your right hand in defense of right against the agents so that the banner of Allahu Akbar [God is great] you raised will continue to fly high in the sky of lofty, mujahid Iraq and over its pure soil under your wise leadership—a leadership that has bestowed on the patient Iraqis and honorable Arabs further glory and pride until God allows for His unequivocal victory. [Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH on 2 October publishes the above item, giving 29 September 1994 as the date of the chief of staff's cable]

National Assembly Speaker Offers To Visit Kuwait

NC2210211894 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 22 (AFP)—Iraq's parliamentary speaker offered Saturday [22 October] to visit Kuwait for negotiations on reconciling the two countries at the centre of the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih also told a press conference that Iraq had "no choice" but to recognize Kuwait, although a special parliamentary session was not needed.

"I am ready to undertake a dialogue with all the Kuwaiti parties, especially the parliament, to reach solutions guaranteeing the rights of each party," said Salih.

He was prepared to hold such a meeting, either at a bilateral level or through a third Arab party, in any country other than Israel.

Iraq has "no choice but to conform to Resolution 833, which was adopted under Chapter VII" of the UN Charter authorizing the use of force, said the parliamentary speaker.

The resolution calls for Iraq to recognize Kuwait, giving up its historical claim to the emirate.

Salih said parliament had already annulled the laws under which Iraq annexed Kuwait after the August 1990 invasion and therefore did not need to adopt any further resolution on recognition.

"We have no condition for recognizing the borders but we believe the (UN) Security Council should implement paragraph 22 of Resolution 687," on lifting the oil embargo, he said.

UN sanctions have been in force since the invasion.

The Security Council, in Resolution 949, has called for Iraq to formally recognize the new border laid down by the United Nations after the 1991 Gulf War which evicted Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Minister on U.S., UK 'Wholesale Annihilation' Policy

JN2410185394 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 24 (INA)—Iraqi Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih has confirmed that the policy of America and Britain towards Iraq has exceeded the sphere of basic human rights and consequently become a process of wholesale annihilation of the people of Iraq.

The minister said at a symposium of human rights in Iraq under the blockade published in AL-JUMHURIYAH daily today that the objective of America and Britain from preventing medicine and food from reaching the people of Iraq was to cause the creation of famine in this country and collapse of the social system and then the hostile intentions and purposes of these two countries were realized. That is in a nutshell what the officials in these two countries are repeating.

The Iraqi minister has made it clear that America and Britain in 1992 noticed that the Article 20 of the Resolution 687 permitted the purchase of food and medicine.

They realized that there was an issue through which Iraq would be able to maintain part of its people's food and medicine and therefore worked for issuing the Resolution 778 on 30 September 1992 which rendered invalid Item 20 of the Resolution 687 regarding the purchase of food through the investment of Iraq's frozen assets.

Since 20 September 1992, the Iraqi minister said, America and Britain had blocked the way before benefiting from the Iraqi frozen assets estimated at around 3.5 billion dollars and the financial measures contained in Resolutions 706 and 712 then came. These measures are not workable in the banking field in world markets regarding importation. Five years of negotiating rounds with the United Nations Iraq achieved some progress in activating partially those measures but the existing problem was how to import.

The minister added that for that reason "we proposed to them to work in accordance with Article 20 of the Resolution 687 because we have performed this role under the supervision of the United Nations in the same mechanism, but they refused that proposal."

Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has further made it clear that the Resolution 778 created an opportunity for interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs through the presence of monitors in the name of the United Nations watching in the Iraqi cities and villages the process of distributing food. Such a measure was not included in Article 20 of the Resolution 687. And despite the success of the rationing card system, as testified by some known international parties concerning the justice in food distribution among different sections of the Iraqi community, the Iraqi side tried to facilitate these measures through watching the arrival of food and medicine inside the Iraqi borders under agreement with the Sanctions Committee. But how can "we accept the coming of a foreign party to oversee the distribution of food we buy by our money?" the minister wondered.

Moreover, the minister added, the process constitutes an offence to the people of Iraq, given the technical details provided in Resolutions 706 and 712.

The Iraqi trade minister wondered by saying "who would accept that any American or European citizen be placed under the very same measures?", taking into consideration that Iraq is a deep-rooted country and rich and its people is known by its dignity.

The United Nations organisations can inform the parties they are responsible about the real situation. But the prejudiced sides refused the dependence on the opinion of the UNICEF, the FAO and the UN Development Programme and demanded those meaures implementation in a manner humiliating dignity of the Iraqi citizen.

The Iraqi minister said the apparent goals of this legally unjustified rejection were to tighten the grip on Iraq's food. And what was brought of analyses in person of an expert at London Economic Institute screened by the International CNN three days, before, in addition to some American experts analyses, confirmed their aim of realizing the political goals through moving the people of Iraq towards the verge of famine and the American and British politics found nothing but that road to achieve their ends.

Given those facts, the minister wondered where the human rights were while Iraq was facing a wholesale annihilation. And thus "we have been forced to make cuts in the food ration and because of that cut the Thai contract has been rejected.

Papers View U.S., UK Reading of Resolution 949

AL-THAWRAH

JN2410114594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the U.S. and British interpretations of Resolution 949 cannot frighten anyone because they lack the legitimate and legal framework on the one hand, and because they face a Russian, French, and Chinese opposition on the other.

In an article today entitled "An Aggressive Interpretation That Cannot Conceal Disappointment," the paper says: Since the joint Iraqi-Russian joint communique was announced on 13 October, the United States has not stopped moaning, groaning, and threatening, confirming in the process that it was the party responsible for fabricating and escalating the recent crisis, and is the party that suffered most from Iraq's containment of that crisis.

The paper adds: Throughout that period of time, and although Iraq announced its good intentions through the said communique, Washington, backed by London, insisted on issuing Resolution 949, which, despite all its flaws and the malicious tendencies it exhibits, was much less than what the United States and Britain wanted and planned to achieve in order to harm Iraq and its security, unity, and sovereignty.

The paper says: It seems that this was too much for Washington and London, which after the resolution was issued hurried to give it a selective interpretation that suits their aggressive and criminal tendencies.

The paper adds: The U.S. and British step on Thursday falls within this context. The threats, provocations, selective interpretation, and departure from the international unanimity were evident in the "points for discussion" memoranda which the permanent envoys of these two states delivered to our permanent envoy at the United Nations.

The paper adds that this step, taken by Washington and London, is a new attempt by these two states to control the Security Council and impose their tyrannical will on it.

The paper says: If through their own interpretation, Washington and London are seeking to give Resolution 949 meanings which they failed to include in its text because of the opposition displayed by the other members and the Russian threat to use the veto, the contents of that interpretation cannot frighten anyone because they lack the legitimate and legal framework on the one hand, and because they face Russian, French, and Chinese opposition on the other.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: The most prominent fact that emerged from the events of the past two weeks was that doors are now open on a new world in which the United States cannot control everything. Washington is now feeling the seriousness and danger of this matter. Consequently, we see it staggering left and right as if it wants to halt the progress of history or divert its course, through threats, provocations, or departure from the international unanimity.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER

JN2410122794 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 24 (INA)—The English-language daily THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER stressed that Iraq would by all means and under any circumstances, resist the U.S and British provocative approach of misinterpreting UN Resolution Number 949.

The paper said Iraq as a sovereign state has the right to deploy its forces anywhere within its borders.

The paper pointed out that the resolution in question simply stipulates that no forces should be massed along the border with Kuwait.

Any extension or deliberate misinterpretation of 949 is no more than a U.S. and British attempt to increase the tension in the Gulf region that would be used as a pretext to deploy their forces in the region and ask for more money from the Gulf states.

This is not the first time the American and British authorities use the UN resolutions to warrant their aggression on other nations. They applied the same approach in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia and very recently in Haiti, the paper said.

The majority of UN member states have realized that the U.S. and British authorities are using the international organisation as a cover to justify their meddling into the internal affairs of other nations.

For this reason, Russia, France and other countries have distanced themselves from the double standard and selective US and British approach to UN resolutions.

This U.S. neo-colonial global approach emerged due to the collapse of the former USSR which used to check US reckless incursions around the globe.

This being the case, has made Russia reassert itself once again as a world major player despite all British and U.S. attempts to marginalize its role in international politics.

This is an indication that any future U.S. and British reckless incursion will come without any political cover and would not have the blessing of such major powers as Russia, France and China.

Therefore, the two aggressive powers are bound to reconsider their foreign policies and think of the rights of other nations to live in peace and choose their political systems freely and away from the threat of wars and sanctions.

Iraq, for its part, will continue its endeavours to unveil the premeditated and ill-intentioned U.S. and British attitude to weaken its potentials according to wishful thinking of putting the riches of the whole region under the U.S. and British control.

Once this goal is realized, God forbid, then the two countries will turn their attention towards such countries as Germany and Japan which rely heavily on oil imported from the region to blackmail these countries into accepting U.S. economic and political terms.

Therefore, Iraq's steadfastness and the positive approaches of Russia, France and China are bound to salvage the world from such evil British and U.S. scenario, the paper concluded.

Saudis, Kuwaitis Urged To Return to 'Arab Lap'

JN2210185794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0912 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi political writer has called on the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to return to the clean, secure Arab lap and to keep away from the treachery of the foreigner.

In an article published by AL-QADISIYAH today, Muwaffaq 'Askar says: The Arab people in all countries will remain one people for thousands of years and the Americans will not stay in the Gulf for ever. These rulers must turn over the page of hatred and treachery and they know that the Iraqi people can establish the best humanitarian and ethical relationship with their brothers and neighbors, especially if they can rise to the level of this relationship, away from the influences of the colonialists and the rancor of the little agents.

He adds: Iraq will remain the focus of all strugglers, revolutionaries, and honorable Arabs and free people of the world. The summer cloud will disappear, and Iraq will remain, as it is today, the free, genuine, sincerely nationalistic, and the clean pan-Arab model. The embargo will end with the Iraqis' steadfastness.

He says that what irritates the imperialists and the agents is the Iraqi people's adherence to President Saddam Husayn as a leader of the Iraqi people and a symbol, as well as their absolute support of his historic decisions.

Daily Suggests Alliance With Islamic Movements

JN2310123294 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 23 (INA)—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER English-language daily of Iraq said that an alliance should be forged between Iraq and other Islamic countries movements to resist U.S. hegemony of the region.

The paper stressed that subservient Arab regimes have put the Arab region once again in the grip of U.S.

imperialism at a time when other nations were realizing such objectives as independence and reunification.

The observer said experience indicates that Israel understands no language other than that of force to reconsider its expansionist policies at the expense of Arab rights.

The submissive policies of certain Arab parties have given room to the emergence of militant Islamic movements that see no hope of the possibility that the current subservient Arab regime can reclaim Arab usurped rights.

An outcry has been made by Israel and the U.S. over the abduction by the Islamic Movement Hamas of an Israeli soldier.

The U.S. should have made the same fuss about the systematic killing of Palestinians by the Israeli occupation forces that has been going on for more than four decades.

U.S. officials should have reconsidered their blind support for Israeli authorities and put pressure on these authorities to relinquish their occupation of the Palestinian lands.

Instead, U.S. successive administrations and the current administration extend their total support for the oppressive policies of Israel against the Palestinians who are trying merely to recover their usurped rights.

Whenever Israeli authorities commit an atrocity against the unarmed Palestinian youths, the U.S. officials turn a deaf ear to Palestinian voice seeking justice.

This constant U.S. bias attitude is an affront to Arab feelings. For this reason the Arab world is nowadays witnessing a sweeping wave of Islamic awareness that will remove all the corrupt and subservient Arab regime whose interests are closely linked to the interests of foreign ones.

This being the case the PLO is advised not to act as a guardian of Israeli occupation forces by checking the daily struggle of followers of the Islamic movements, detaining its militant members and yielding to Israeli pressure to force inter-Palestinian strife.

It would be naive to think that Israeli occupation forces could withdraw from all Arab occupied territories if the Palestinians lay down their arms and stop their resistance.

Barzani Reportedly Seeks To Hold Opposition Summit

JN2410195694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Kamiran Qurrah Daghi]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—A highly-placed Kurdish source has told AL-HAYAH that Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] Leader Mas'ud Barzani, currently on a visit to Iran, is seeking to hold a summit meeting for the Iraqi opposition leaders in Irbil in northern Iraq.

The source said that Barzani has coordinated in advance with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the Iraqi National Congress [INC].

The same source added that invitations will be extended to the "first-in-command official" of each faction under the INC in their "personal capacity" to participate in a meeting which will be held in Irbil soon "to discuss the INC's internal problems and to adopt an INC plan of action."

The source said that during a meeting in Tehran this week, Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, has given Barzani an "approval in principle" to participate in the meeting.

Invitations were extended to the leaders of the remaining parties under the INC, as well as to the "prominent INC members, some of whom have arrived in Kurdistan, and others are expected to leave for the region soon."

The source said that the Western capitals have showed interest in the Kurdish initiative, and asked the Kurdish representatives to provide them with additional information.

New Law Issued Canceling 1985 Inheritance Law

JN2210183394 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—The Presidential Office has issued Law No. 22 for the year 1994 canceling Inheritance Law No. 64 of the year 1985. Following is the text of the law:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq

In the name of the people

The Presidential Office

In accordance with the National Assembly's approval and based on the provisions of Article 53 of the Constitution, we have issued the following Law No. 22 for the year 1994 canceling Inheritance Law No. 64 of the year 1985.

Article 1: Inheritance Law No. 64 of the year 1985 shall be canceled, and its provisions will remain valid regarding cases of death preceding the expiry date.

Article 2: This law shall take effect as of its publication in the official gazette.

Baghdad, 15 Jumada al-'Awwal, 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 11 October, 1994.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

'Intelligence' Indicates Attack in Haifa Possible

TA2510082394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Oct 94 p 9

[Report by Li'or El-Hay]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We have obtained intelligence information concerning a possible mass terror attack in Haifa," security sources reported yesterday.

"Up to now, Haifa, which is the third largest city in Israel, has been spared. We fear that the terrorists might now attempt to bring it into the 'bloody circle' as well," the sources noted.

Deputy Commander Ya'aqov Borovsky, the Haifa District police commander, said yesterday that the district police are on high alert.

Police Prepare Security Before Clinton Visit

TA2510052694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz says it is being estimated that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will attempt to carry out a spectacular attack in Israel.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that, in anticipation of President Bill Clinton's visit, the police are preparing a large-scale security operation involving more than 10,000 policemen, who will block the roads used by the U.S. President, and will tow away vehicles parked along these roads.

Baraq Comments on Operations Against Hamas

TA2110192694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 21 Oct 94 pp 1, 2, 3

[Interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ben-Yishay] Lieutenant General Baraq, is it possible to stop the present wave of terrorism?

[Baraq] I believe there will be more attacks. We should harbor no illusions about this. We are in the midst of a very prolonged struggle. Our enemy is tough and tenacious. This is not merely a terror organization, it is also active proselytizing in Palestinian society. We are primarily interested in dealing with the perpetrators of attacks, but at the same time we are trying to disrupt the entire network of support and social backing that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has within Palestinian society. Our problem is that only part of this infrastructure is within our reach, while another is within the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority [PA], and it also enjoys certain types of support in other places in the area.

[Ben-Yishay] Such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan?

[Baraq] Yes. Neighboring countries, both nearby and further away.

[Ben-Yishay] How will the government, in general, and you, in particular, deal with the problem?

[Baraq] We are going to implement a series of measures. First, we will intensify the operational and intelligence efforts against the perpetrators and accomplices in ways that cannot be discussed in the press. The second thing is indefinitely closing Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and beefing up police patrols in Jerusalem. The main problem is the situation in which Palestinians and Israelis are intermingled, because this creates opportunities and targets for attacks and makes it difficult for us to detect the terrorists on time.

The third thing will be to remove all the illegal workers from within Israeli territory.

Fourth, adjusting our legal tools, especially the duration of administrative detention, to enable us to deal more effectively with Hamas' supporters, organizers, and social activists—all of those who do not directly participate in the attacks.

The combination of all these measures, in addition to some others on which I do not want to elaborate, is the short-term package of measures. In the long-term, we have to deal with the basic situation encouraging this terrorism, namely a situation in which the Israeli and Palestinian societies are intertwined. We should decide whether we will continue to sit in each other's living rooms or whether we should adhere to the adage that says that high fences make for good neighbors.

[Ben-Yishay] There is a danger that an uncompromising struggle against Islamic terrorism could paradoxically increase support for it. How can we deal with this catch-22 situation?

[Baraq] There is no clear-cut solution. You can't have your cake and eat it too. Every move we implement will have a double effect. Take the closure as an example: On the one hand, it removes the Palestinians from Israel, thus making it easier for the public to notice anybody suspicious. On the other hand, it increases the pressure on Palestinian society, causes great anger, and increases support for Hamas.

There is a third dimension here, however, which is the most important one: The closure demonstrates to 'Arafat that he is facing a very serious problem with which he must deal. Now he clearly understands that Hamas terrorism and peace do not go together. He is required to make a very difficult decision. I do not envy him regarding this decision. He cannot tolerate the active presence of Hamas' military arm in his territory, both out of his own considerations and because we will not tolerate this.

[Ben-Yishay] What do you mean we will not tolerate this? Will we enter Gaza?

[Baraq] We will act against them in the areas under our control with all the means at our disposal and will demand that 'Arafat deal with the roots of Hamas terrorism, which strikes at us from the Gaza Strip.

We should bear in mind that we have still not exhausted all the steps we can implement in the areas under our control.

[Ben-Yishay] Is it true that the Oslo agreement's implementation has improved this monster's operational capability?

[Baraq] Undoubtedly. The Declaration of Principles has created the conditions for the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, with all its positive aspects. These conditions, on the other hand, do not make for personal security within Israel, because the situation in which tens of thousands of Palestinians enter Israel daily has not changed.

Even sealing off Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will not solve all our problems. The closure, however, sharply decreases the scope of the immediate problem and Hamas' ability to carry out attacks.

[Ben-Yishay] Are you implying that the solution to terrorism lies in political rather than military means?

[Baraq] The answers to terrorism are not merely in the operational or intelligence sphere. Unlike other terrorist organizations, Hamas is an extremely radical organization which threatens Israel's very existence. It has far-reaching aims which do not end with the foiling of this peace agreement. It is a movement with which we cannot compromise. Our struggle against Hamas must be an all-out struggle with all the means at our disposal.

In the final account, however, this is not a struggle of intelligence and military capabilities, rather a struggle of wills, of how each side's will is perceived by the other side. This is why our perseverance at the most difficult moments is so important.

Some of the commentaries that have appeared over the last 10 days gave the appearance of there being wider rifts in our staying power than there really are. This causes Hamas to wrongly assess our determination and our will to fight them and pay the necessary price. They are attentive to such hints in the press. It is important to show determination and perseverance without budging in any situation.

[Ben-Yishay] Do you reject the proposal calling for a dialogue with Hamas' political leadership in a bid to involve it in the political process?

[Baraq] I do not want to talk about this at all. I think it is an illusion to believe that it is possible to tame this tiger.

[Ben-Yishay] Will you make the continued implementation of the Oslo Agreement conditional on more personal security for Israelis?

[Baraq] The personal security of Israelis is our responsibility, not 'Arafat's. If Palestinian society cannot decide between peace and terrorism, we will have to prevent them from holding the stick by both ends. In this issue there is a clear connection between our decision whether to allow Palestinian workers into Israel, to permit them to travel freely between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, or to sell their produce in Israel and the manner in which they implement their security and antiterror obligations.

[Ben-Yishay] Will you carry our deportations?

[Baraq] I do not want to speak about this at the present time. Deportation is a legal tool we have inherited from the British, the authors of the Magna Carta, but I have never liked it. I cannot say, however, what will happen if there are more attacks of this kind. I believe that if these attacks continue we will have to employ all the legal measures we have.

[Ben-Yishay] Will you recruit reservists from noncombat units to impose the closure and help the police within Israel?

[Baraq] We, together with the police and the finance minister, are considering ways to beef up our operations on both sides of the Green Line. We may strengthen the police by diverting soldiers from the military and establishing a national service for it, or by providing direct financial allocations.

We are also considering the possibility of sending second-rate reservists to reinforce part of this activity. This could somewhat increase the burden on the reserve services, and it will obviously cost money. But under the present circumstances there are no chances of hermetically sealing the Green Line between Judaea and Samaria and Israel. [passage omitted]

Ministers Deny Report on Plan To Kill Hamas Bosses

TA2310193194 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has threatened tough reprisals in the wake of reports about Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's intention to harm the movement's leaders. These reports were denied by the cabinet ministers today. The ministers were also apprised by Rabin of the recent arrest of dozens of Hamas activists in the territories. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] The ministers mostly reacted with amusement to the headlines in the London OBSERVER, which were quoted today in Israel.

[Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish] We have all read about this in THE OBSERVER only. Anyone familiar with the Israeli defense establishment knows that we do not generally publish our intentions. I therefore would not take these reports in THE OBSERVER very seriously. We will wage an all-out war against Hamas with all the measures at our disposal, but we will not publish our plans in the British press.

[Rosen] One thing is certain. The ministers know that in such issues, as well as others, the cabinet is not Yitzhaq Rabin's preferred forum for an exchange of views. Nevertheless, the prime minister briefed the cabinet on the arrest of dozens of Hamas activists, including senior officials. Security officials said that approximately 50 arrests had been made and that there were many still to come. [passage omitted]

Peres Addresses Foreign Affairs Committee Session

On Hamas' Amman Headquarters Closure

TA2410125994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that in the talks with Jordan, Israel demanded that the Jordanian authorities terminate the operations of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] headquarters in Amman. Speaking at today's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the foreign minister said the Jordanians had stressed that only the political bureau operates in Amman and that it is not connected with Hamas in the territories. He noted that Jordan, however, does prevent the passage of terrorists and sabotage materiel from its territory to Israel.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the foreign minister added that the Palestinian Authority [PA] never even asked that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat be invited to the ceremony at which the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement will be signed and that there is no tension between Israel and the PA over this matter.

On Expected Results of Clinton Syria Visit

TA2410174194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said one should not pin high expectations on U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Damascus, although he believes the President will score one or two achievements there. Peres was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

[Nir] Today both Peres and Prime Minister Rabin evidently sought to lower expectations with regard to the negotiations with Syria. Peres told the Knesset committee: The negotiations with the Syrians are being conducted more on wings than on feet; in other words, no progress has been made on the ground. The Syrians have taken some tactical steps but nothing more than that. We do not accept the negotiating method they are proposing, Peres added.

As for the U.S. President's visit to Damascus, Peres said Clinton believes he will be able to score one or two achievements there. In this context, the foreign minister pointed out that both Syria and the U.S. Administration played a part in persuading Hizballah to stop firing katyushas in the north over the weekend.

[In a report earlier in the newscast on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's meeting with members of the coalition, the same correspondent notes that "Rabin said he is waiting to hear from the U.S. President details about his meeting with President al-Asad, but nevertheless pointed out that, in his opinion, Syria does not want to look like it is being dragged along after the PLO and Jordan. Consequently, no far-reaching news should be expected, Rabin said."]

As for Judaea and Samaria, Peres described the situation there as an omelet. According to him, today the Palestinians are due to give their answers to 37 questions posed by Israel regarding elections in the territories.

Peres stated that Israel rejected the Palestinians' demand to hold separate elections for the representative council and for the position of president of Palestine. Israel also objects to a 100-member elected body with legislative powers and prefers a 30-member executive body. [passage omitted]

Peres added that in a meeting he held with the prime minister and the finance minister this morning, it was decided to agree to the establishment of a Middle East development bank. The walls in the region are gradually crumbling down, said Peres, who, in the course of this week, will have visited Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco. Yosi Sarid is visiting Bahrain and will visit Tunis, not to mention the fact that our relations with Tunis are gradually coming out of the closet. One must look at the full picture, Peres told members of the opposition.

Rabin Addressees Knesset on Peace With Jordan

TA2510085294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 0702 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the opening of a special Knesset session convened to endorse the peace agreement with Jordan; broadcast in progress—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] ....We hope this ends dozens of years of hostility, war, and bloodshed. The time for peace has arrived. Knesset members, for a generation we have faced the Jordanian snipers who aimed their guns at us; Israeli civilians were shot to death; IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers died during reprisal operations during routine security duties and war.

For many years we have lived with different terms reverberating in our ears: Infiltrators; the Mandelebaum Gate; the East-West Jerusalem divide; the Fast Hotel bombarded during the Six-Day War; the biweekly convoys to Mt. Scopus; the university; the Pagi line of houses, which are closest to the Old City of Jerusalem and first to have been bombarded during the Six-Day War; Abu-Tor; the occasional lunatic [a designation for Jordanian soldiers randomly firing at West Jerusalem residents from over the wall]; archaeologists at Ramat Rahel who were fired on by Jordanians before the Six-Day War; and a terrorist act at Mevo Betar near the former Jordanian border prior to the Six-Day War.

There are many people in Israel who still remember Nahhalin, (Harandal), (Duwaymah), the Husan and Qalqilyah police stations which served as a springboard for terrorist attacks against Israel, and Sammu' where an IDF officer was killed in an antiterror act [all referring to IDF reprisal acts]. Our best soldiers paid with their lives. We faced two large-scale wars against the Arab Legion and the Jordanian Army during the War of Independence and the Six-Day War. In both wars we successfully defended our homes.

Generations of people in this tormented country were nurtured on the deeds and words of our fierce struggle with Jordan: The fall of the 'Etzyon Bloc and the death of some of its members; the Old City of Jerusalem which we lost; the empty city market; Jews who can no longer worship on Temple Mount; Giv'at Hatahmoshet; Armon Hanetziv; Tall al-Ful in the Ramallah area occupied in the Six-Day War; and French Hill and Giv'at Hamivtar in north Jerusalem which were also occupied during the Six-Day War. IDF hot pursuit operations during the War of Attrition also claimed a very heavy toll of casualties. The bombs which fell in Bet She'an during this war; there were infiltrations of terrorists from Jordan to Yardena and Bet Yosef; two moshavim in the Bet She'an Valley which were targets of terror activity. Every name conceals a battle and a story; every name is a legend and a daring and enthusiastic person who is no longer with us, who was killed in the battlefields. This peace is dedicated to the fallen as well as to those who have survived. Politicians wrote this peace agreement, but you fought for it.

Knesset members, the journey to peace between Israel and Jordan officially started during the Madrid conference three years ago. The dialogue between us and Jordan, however, took on various forms and has seen almost no interval for the last 70 years. All Israeli governments and prime ministers have maintained contacts with Jordan and strove to achieve peace with it. In future generations researchers and historians will have much to tell about the complicated relations between Amman and Jerusalem, relations of love and hostility, war and peace. The time for peace with Jordan has arrived.

In Madrid and Washington, in the 'Arava, on both sides of the Dead Sea, in Bet Gavri'el on Lake Tiberias, in the Knesset, Elat, al-'Aqabah, and Amman we have advanced over the last year toward peace. In the Washington Declaration—signed in the presence of the U.S. President on 25 July 1994—we officially ended the state of belligerency between Israel and Jordan. To our great satisfaction the Knesset has endorsed this declaration by a huge majority, thus reflecting the broad national consensus concerning the peace efforts with Jordan.

In the days since the Washington Declaration the negotiations picked up speed, with Israeli and Jordanian representatives meeting and investing great efforts in formulating a draft peace agreement. When I addressed you at the opening of the Knesset winter session I said that according to our assessment a peace agreement with Jordan may be signed before the end of 1994, and now we have been proved right. At the end of an arduous negotiation process in al-'Aqabah and Amman we reached this momentous hour. Last week the peace agreement was initialed in Amman. The Israeli Government endorsed the draft agreement, and to the best of our knowledge so has the Jordanian Government. Now we are submitting it for Knesset endorsement. This is an hour of grace and gratitude. I want to extend my gratitude to many dozens of people in various ministries, mainly the ministers, who have worked ceaselessly to enable us to reach this inspiring hour—certainly the foreign minister, who has done so much. In particular I must express gratitude to two devoted civil servants, Elyaqim Rubinstein and Efrayim Halevi, who cannot be praised enough.

Mr. Speaker, Knesset members, you have the peace agreement with Jordan in front of you, both in Hebrew and English—the latter being the binding form. I want to emphasize the fact that it is the English version which is binding. The peace agreement with Jordan includes 30 articles and five annexes discussing, among other things, the border demarcation in al-Baqurah, Naharayim, and Zofar. The treaty also deals with water, police cooperation, environment, and temporary arrangements for bilateral border crossing. I want to direct your attention to the brief documents called memorandums which are also in front of you. These memorandums pertain to various activities or to the interpretation of various articles. A map is also attached. The annexes also include detailed aerial and satellite photos.

Knesset members, what does the peace agreement with Jordan include? In the Washington Declaration we announced an end to the state of belligerency between the two countries. The peace treaty which will be signed tomorrow will elevate the relatic .s to the highest level possible, that of full peace. It includes everything from full diplomatic relations to ambassadors and embassies, environment and economic relations—it deals with everything.

What have we discussed so exhaustively? The demarcation of the international border; water; security; the refugee problem; the character of bilateral relations—in other words, normalization. Normalization means an Israeli bus traveling from Jerusalem to Amman; Jordanian airliners flying over Israeli airspace on their way to Europe. According to the agreement, the international border is delineated with reference to the boundary definition under the British Mandate. I must state that the latter border was only verbally defined during the beginning of the British Mandate. Never was it demarcated, except for a handful of kilometers along its southern edge. We had to jointly determine its precise location and demarcation. In the negotiations, we agreed that the border line be based on the Mandate border and on the armistice agreement signed between Jordan and Israel in 1949. Since the inception of the state, this has been the line demarcated on our maps. It was also agreed that both sides must take into consideration the special circumstances which have cropped up over the years, and introduce mutually-agreed-on minor border changes. None of the two sides has given up a square centimeter of land in relation to the border line based on the armistice line.

These changes will enable the 'Arava settlements to continue farming the lands they are currently farming; these lands will remain under Israeli sovereignty. They will also be able to continue using the water needed to water this area. The minor border changes also take into consideration security needs and the proximity to the 'Arava road. A special arrangement was achieved regarding some of the lands of Zofar.

Knesset members, we have considered the legal aspects of the border exchanges, as well as the other aspects of the agreement, with the attorney general. If the peace treaty requires some legislation activity, the appropriate draft laws will be submitted for Knesset approval in such a way that the legislation is completed within the three months allocated for it in the pace treaty.

The peace treaty stipulates that the water supply for the 'Arava settlements be provided from the Jordanian side at the present level or above. At the same time we will transfer to Jordan a considerable amount of water from northern Israel, as stipulated in the treaty. The present wells, including those which will be under Jordanian sovereignty, will remain under the technical responsibility of an Israeli company, albeit under Jordanian sovereignty. A special arrangement was determined for the settlement of Zofar, whose lands are situated several kilometers on the Jordanian side of the new international border. This made it impossible to include this land in the framework of the minor border changes. The special arrangement, for a period of 25 years with an option to extend, will enable Zofar to continue farming this area as before. This arrangement is based on an earlier arrangement concerning the small island located near Ashdot Ya'aqov, which was originally private land belonging to the pre-state electric corporation. These 830 dunams have remained a part of Israeli territory since 1948, even though it is under Jordanian sovereignty. The special arrangement here does not involve leasing, rather an appropriate arrangement for continuing the activity as before, as well as the development of joint projects with Jordan.

The concerned 'Arava settlements as well as Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'aqov agreed to the arrangements. Knesset members, regarding water, Israel agreed to pass on to Jordan about 50 million cubic meters per year from northern Israel. It has been agreed on to erect two dams on the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers, when financing for this is available. Funds are not yet available. These dams will allow Jordan to have a similar water quantity. Also included in future plans are additional water projects in the 'Arava which will allow joint development both on sovereign Israeli territory and on sovereign Jordanian territory.

Mr. Speaker, Knesset members, on security, the main intention is to prevent either of the two countries—as far as we are concerned the emphasis is on Jordan—from joining hostile coalitions. We believe that the treaty gives an appropriate answer to this. The Jordanians undertook fighting terror, its pepetrators and infrastructure, and to cooperate in the prevention of infiltrations and terrorist penetrations through their border with us. Our Jordanian neighbors also raised the refugee issue. The negotiations were not easy. Article 8 of the treaty deals with it. It mentions that human problems were caused to both sides by the Israeli-Arab conflict, not just to one side. The treaty talks of mechanisms for handling the problems of refugees and the displaced. It was clear—and this was the basic assumption of all parties—that these problems could not be solved on a bilateral basis only. The matter of the sites holy to Islam in Jerusalem was noted exactly as it was in the Washington Declaration, without any addition or deletion. There is no other reference to Jerusalem in the treaty. Most of the other clauses of the treaty deal with bilateral issues—so-called normalization. A system of negotiations was set up to discuss culture and science, the struggle against crime and drugs, transportation and roads, civil aviation, post and communications, tourism and ecology, energy, development of the Jordan Rift Valley, health and agriculture, and Elat/al-'Aqabah issues. A joint committee will follow up on the negotiations on the economic accords. Reference is, of course, to the lifting of boycotts and trade agreements, including a free trade zone.

Knesset members, we very much want the citizens of Israel to tangibly feel the peace. Therefore, it was concluded that even before diplomatic relations are established and before the completion of the tourism agreement, expected within three months, tourism and mutual visits will start, in a controlled manner, immediately after exchanging the ratification papers. I would like to mention that according to Jordanian law, the Jordanian Parliament will ratify the treaty only after tomorrow's signing, and the ratification documents will be exchanged after the treaty is ratified by the Israeli Government. I assume this will be done more or less within 10 days. Furthermore, the memorandum contains a mutual undertaking to consult on all general and monetary issues in Judaea and Samaria in order to prevent damage to both sides to the extent possible.

Mr. Speaker, Knesset members, the peace treaty submitted to the Knesset for endorsement today is a balanced document which can be viewed by each side as meeting its main requirements. This is only fitting since it is only when both sides are satisfied with the foundations of peace that such a peace can be viable. This peace has no losers. This peace has only winners. It is the second peace treaty of the Israeli nation since the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt by the late Prime Minister Mr. Menahem Begin. It is additionallly important to strengthen the Jewish people's status in Eretz Yisra'el, its historic homeland. The peace treaty is not only a political agreement, but also a basic and essential change in our very existence here. We are no longer a people dwelling alone [Numbers, 23:9]. This is a deep and basic change which will affect all our walks of life: the truck which will leave Haifa carrying cargo to Amman; the plane which will take off from Dov airfield and land in Amman after 30 minutes; businessmen who will fly in the morning to close a deal and return to Jerusalem in the evening; and families who will take their children for a tour of Petra, a mere three-hour drive from Tel Aviv. This change will affect the lives and daily routines of each of us.

A word about Syria. We would like to believe that the peace treaty with Jordan will promote the treaty with Syria. We still do not have an agreement with Syria. There is dialogue, but no agreement. The accord with the Kingdom of Jordan, which followed the accord with Egypt and the accord with the Palestinians, proves that patience pays, and that a serious approach is the correct approach.

I also cannot but say a few words about terror, the current terror perpetrated by the enemies of peace, by radical Islamic terror organizations, since it is they who are responsible for 90 percent of the terror acts perpetrated against us from inside the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and it is their Lebanese branches that carry out the terrorist acts against the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] from southern Lebanon. This terror strikes at us. We have lived with terror for a long time. Some ask whether there is a point to peace if terror still exists. Let me tell you: I cannot, we cannot guarantee that no terror will exist anymore. I can only guarantee that at the end of the road we shall defeat it. Peace is the only way to isolate terror. Peace will prove to the nations in the region that another alternative exists.

Mr. Speaker, Knesset members, and Israel's citizens, one night last week we stood on the balcony of the royal palace in Amman, watching Jerusalem's lights on the other side. Jerusalem was so near, only tens of kilometers away, but 46 years of animosity separated Amman and Jerusalem. Knesset members, from now on the road is open. The Israeli Government is today submitting to the Israeli nation the initialed peace treaty with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In Jerusalem and Amman, in Elat and al-'Aqabah, in Irbid and Tiberias, a new and wonderful page will be turned in Israel's history tomorrow. Happy are the people who have this. Let me conclude with remarks by the Prophet Isaiah: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings, who publishes salvation [Isaiah 52:7]. Knesset Members, I am asking you to endores the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. Thank you.

Rabin: U.S. Administration 'Very Friendly'

TA2410135094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disclosed today that the security services are holding two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members who helped the suicide terrorist who perpetrated the bombing in Tel Aviv. One of them provided him with accommodation the night before the attack. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister made this disclosure in a meeting with the coalition factions. Mr. Rabin said he hopes Israel will be able to tackle Hamas with the tools at its disposal.

The prime minister pointed out that President Clinton and the U.S. Administration are trying to bring about a quiet dialogue between Israel and Syria and are not presenting the Syrians with positions unacceptable to Israel. This administration is very friendly toward Israel, Rabin stressed. He cited as an example the administration's announcement that it will supply Israel with 50 F-16E jets already this year—instead of spreading their delivery over two years—in order to bolster Israel's military might. The U.S. proposal presents us with a dilemma, because we have not yet located the money to fly these aircraft, the prime minister added.

Rabin pointed out that Israel and Jordan have numerous joint development programs but the main problem is funding. We have not yet found the money to pay for the building of two dams on the Jordan River, which would cost only 150 million shekels, he said.

'Source' Denies Closure To Be Lifted Soon

TA2510093994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Oct 94 p A1

[Report by Gay Bekhor and Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A senior Israeli source in Cairo has denied the remarks by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the PLO delegation to the Cairo talks, according to which Israel had promised to lift the cordon imposed on the territories "in the next few days." The Israeli source told HA'ARETZ that "the issue was not discussed at all today. Also, in the Liaison Committee meeting in Cairo yesterday, the Palestinians were told that at this time Israel does not intend to lift the closjre." [passage omitted]

Algerian, Gulf Ambassadors Condemn Tel Aviv Attack

TA2310115494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Algerian ambassador in one of the largest countries in the West has called his Israeli counterpart to express his condolences over the Tel Aviv bus attack. This is according to Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic correspondent. He adds that Arab ambassadors from most of the Gulf states phoned their Israeli counterparts in various capitals to express their condemnation of the attack.

No-Confidence Motions Defeated by 5 Votes

TA2410162394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago, the coalition managed to defeat three motions of no confidence in the government by a difference of only five votes. The results of the vote were: 51 in favor and 56 against the motions. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] factions absented themselves, but Knesset Members Ester Salmovich of YI'UD and Refa'el Pinhasi of SHAS were in the hall and voted against the government.

King Addresses Officers on Peace, Arab Ties

JN2410205594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1832 GMT 24 Oct 94

[Remarks by King Husayn to officers of the 12th Royal Mechanized Division on 24 October; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings of love and confidence in every one of you in this deep-rooted Division. My pride in you is unlimited. [passage omitted]

I will not elaborate on the details of the past phase. You have heard a great deal about it from me and from others. But I want to say that thanks to this country's reputation, firmness, resolve, determination, and willpower, we have restored our territory and rights in full [applause]. If there is anything to be added in this regard, it is that had we been after our own interests, cause, territory, and rights in isolation from others, we would have attained them earlier. However, we chose to stand on the side of our nation honorably and sincerely. God be thanked for that. Jerusalem is in the heart, the conscience, and the soul. Our blood was spilled on the sacred soil of Palestine. Jerusalem has been saved. Many ignore that the issue of Jerusalem has been maintained thanks to the children and men of this country, including the founding grandfather, the pioneers, and the Arab Legion [applause]. Even during the most difficult stages in 1967, this army continued to fight in Jerusalem until the people of Jerusalem appealed to us to stop fighting to safeguard the sacred city. Husayn Bin-'Ali is buried in Jerusalem. 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn was martyred in Jerusalem. So were those who preceded us on the path of martyrdom and sacrifice, led by individuals from this Arab army and this noble country. We are advocates of peace. We have been advocates of peace, and so will we remain. We have defended and are defending the rights of this nation to the best of our ability. [passage omitted]

Finally, God be praised, we initialed the treaty. The bases are clear: The return of every inch of Jordanian territory to Jordan [applause] and the restoration of Jordanian sovereignty to our entire territory. A big share of water has also been secured. All that will lead to a comprehensive solution, which we hope will make available further sources in the future. All this took place with no one on our side except the Almighty God, as well as our faith resolve, determination, and effort. My thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for the Jordanian negotiators in all positions, from the beginning until now, for what they have offered before we have arrived at this situation, which is balanced in every respect. We are not taking into consideration who is relatively stronger and who is relatively weaker. We are taking into consideration the interests of this country and its children and their rights in full concerning the coming phases and the new situation. We are for a comprehensive solution. We hope and believe that it must be a comprehensive solution. We have moved from the same point from which all parties started. We have reached what we have reached. We beseech God to help our Arab brethren to advance and attain their full rights to their territory and waters. Their territory is dear to us, in any case. [passage omitted]

I believe that the steps we have taken are supported, blessed, and trusted by the overwhelming majority of the sons of Jordan. They trust a brother of you and a human being who lives with you and through you. We trust ourselves. This is a dear trust. It is difficult for people to move from one situation to another and from one atmosphere to another within moments. But we hope God will enable us to pass this test too and reach our goals. There are only a few people who have been attacking and have gone too far. This is part of our democratic life, and we respect people's rights in expressing their ideas. Here, I would like to remind of the National Charter, the Constitution, and the need for the minority to respect the view and trend of the majority. I am not generalizing but specifying.

At the beginning of this stage, I received reports on the deliberations and studies which were going on. Some people believed that Jordan would not restore any inch of its territory and would not get anything of its water and demands. Therefore, the matter would be left and erosion and destruction would continue with despair, suffering, more poverty, and the loss of hope. It has been assessed that four years would be needed by those I have mentioned to be able to turn the situation upside down. I believe that they were surprised by the achievement and the result, which was produced through effort, sacrifice, honesty, truthfulness, and insistence on demanding every inch of our territory and our rights which we have regained. Therefore, we hear what we hear and see what we see.

Here I should return to the past and pose at certain stations in our life. After the first surprise when our big sister, Egypt, departed from the ranks and concluded a peace treaty with Israel, Syria and Jordan remained at the forefront at that time. We did the impossible to achieve rapprochement and cooperation for the sake of integration at that critical, difficult circumstance. The situation exploded in our face all at once. Explosions, killings, crimes took place in Syria, and the fingers of accusation were pointed at this country.

I could not believe that some people who were among us, with us, and among our ranks could have a role in what had happened under the circumstances when we and Syria were the only side on the confrontation line. Everything we had built was destroyed. Later, we discovered that some people from among us and among our ranks had worked to achieve that result.

Once again, I am not generalizing, but specifying. I warn the people lest, God forbid, we find ouselves in the same position and in the same danger. This story is over. Their relations also have ended whether regarding financing or arms supplies by another fraternal state. What happened, happened.

In 1990, the situation erupted in the region once again [a reference to the Gulf war]. To begin with, what was against the general current in this country [not further identified] with which we stood in one line to prevent the occurrence of all the catastrophes which were inflicted on us as a nation. Some sides were on the other side, but when they saw that the current had a genuine Arab direction that was concerned for the nation's interests, they changed their direction quickly and proceeded in a direction that was opposite to the direction they took at the outset of the crisis and the catastrophe.

Some sides talk about pan-Arabism in the same language they used in the fifties, after the fifties, and before the fifties. Some sides criticized al-Husayn Bin-'Ali and basically the Great Arab Revolt which erupted when the nation's language was threatened, the language with which the Holy Koran was revealed to [Prophet] Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, may God's peace and blessing be upon him. Our mosques are the pulpits of the prophet and his companions. We have endured a great deal and we have been patient. We warned and drew attention.

As for Palestine, which Arab country gave to Palestine as this country did? This is a duty and an honor and not an act of kindness. This is in terms of martyrs, men, capabilities, and the real situation we are experiencing here, muhajirin and ansar [reference to Palestinian emigrants and Jordanian supporters]. We have not relinquished Palestine. We have not relinquished Arab rights anywhere in our greater homeland. However, the side in charge of speaking for the Palestinians and the sole, legitimate representative has assumed its responsibilities and has moved. Therefore, we had to take care of ourselves and situation, and to deal with this situation.

Ingratitude does not apply to the people because they are our people and beloved ones. We will continue to support them as much as we can. We beseech God to grant them success in their march to achieve their objectives.

We are defending this symbolic right of ours in Jerusalem on behalf of the Islamic nation. To whom would we leave this trust now? When people restore their rights on their national soil and in Jerusalem, the issue may be raised. With God's help, this will take place in the future. But it is a trust and a responsibility which we will not relinquish to the unknown. There has been denial. I do not know how many of you know that the piece of marble which carried the date of the third Hashemite renovation—which I had the honor to carry out—was destroyed less than 24 hours after it was erected, and it remains so.

Yet, we will not abandon our duty and our role in the name of the Islamic nation. We are on the right path so that Jerusalem, God willing, and the holy places will be placed above the issue of sovereignty of this or that side. Sovereignty over them all is for Almighty God. [applause] Let it become, with God's help, a symbol of peace.

Brothers, in 1970, and I do not want to recall pain, tragedies, and suffering. I say the 1970 incidents were not triggered by problems between us and our brothers. The side that was responsible for the 1970 incidents was the same side that was responsible for the destruction of Lebanon and for many problems that have befallen this nation and Palestine up till now—Palestine which should have been above all differences and all trends and which should have unified all hearts in the Arab and Islamic world. No. Even in those days, some people said they would not recognize this state. We told them that even if we assumed there had been no state and that we had dissolved into tribes, my tribe would have been, by God, bigger that any other tribe. It is the overwhelming majority of the people, and my organization is the biggest in this country. [applause]

I have never been alone. My strength is derived from you, from my honesty to you, and from your relationship with me, which has a significant meaning in my life. Out of my confidence in you, you shoulder responsibility under all circumstances as it is the responsibility of every one of you toward people, our sons, and our generations. [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan Explains Stand on Jerusalem

JN2310211394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Italicized passages are Prince Hasan's recorded remarks]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that Jordan supports the restoration of Palestinian political rights to territories occupied in 1967. This came during his highness' meeting with Public Security personnel today.

Jerusalem falls within the political framework. We support a clear political framework—as I said—territories that were occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. We support the full restoration of Palestinian political rights to territories occupied in 1967. However, allow me to say: When we called for religious jurisdiction, we were referring to the essence of the issue that lies within the walls of the old city [of Jerusalem].

Giving up responsibilities—that is, transferring these responsibilities from the Jordanian Awqaf [Islamic endowments] to the Palestinian Awqaf in the occupied territories—should be viewed as a normal transfer. It is known that the occupied territories will be under the self-rule. However, relinquishing these responsibilities in terms of records, documents, lands, charity centers, schools, and mosques inside the holy city when a vacuum occurs there or under the occupation conditions is something unacceptable and cannot be approved by religion or conscience.

I wanted to be clear on this issue too. There is no dispute between us and anybody else. Within this framework, we say: Yes. All these issues will be discussed during the final stage. Yes. We support our Palestinian brothers in that they should shoulder all responsibilities. However, the question is: What about the transitional stage? Will it be accepted that Jordan gives up its responsibilities toward the Arab and Islamic worlds? I believe that recognizing that we are shouldering religious responsibilities is an admission of the big responsibility we are shouldering toward our holy places on the Arab and Islamic levels. When we talk about constants, this, naturally, is one of these constants.

His highness the crown prince then reviewed the role of the Jordanian negotiator who was able to reiterate the Jordanian sovereignty within a framework of mutual respect.

This negotiator was able to reiterate Jordanian sovereignty within a framework of mutual respect. He was also able to scientifically and objectively reject any party's attempt to exercise hegemony over Jordan.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan explained the Jordanian media's role and its importance in dealing with the citizen, especially during the stage we are currently going through.

We sometimes say: May God help the writer when he tries to create a balance in what he is saying. Should he exaggerate like the Israeli media, for example? Are the objectives of the Israeli media when it discusses and defines the peace track in line with our objectives?

Comparison is not necessarily a sound introduction. I believe in the principle of assessment. We must assess in light of our principles, concepts, and aspirations. Our responsibility also is to assess our citizen's ability to comprehend things. I am not saying this to belittle our citizen's ability in this regard. Our citizen is aware, thanks be to God. However, sometime it is hard to go from one stage to another without some sort of clarification. This is the purpose of our meeting here.

Al-Majali Says Land, Water Rights Restored

JN2410141394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has reaffirmed that Jordan restored its pivotal role and weight in the region, and got all its rights in land, water, and security.

The premier said unemployment and poverty can be wiped out through investment, adding that investment requires stability, and stability comes through achieving peace.

The remarks came during a visit to the Ministry of Social Development in the morning.

Islamic Movement Deputies Consider Resigning

JN2410161394 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-MAJD has learned that Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani was the one who read the articles of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement and commented on them when it was presented to the Council of Ministers last Tuesday [18 October]. Informed sources told AL-MAJD that Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali was satisfied with speaking about the agreement in general terms without explaining the essential and detailed matters.

The sources added that the agreement was approved unanimously without being discussed by any minister. Nobody even asked to read the agreement carefully.

As the Council of Ministers passed this agreement swiftly, the House of Representatives is expected to approve it after the final signing with a majority of approximately 50 deputies while 22-25 deputies will vote against the agreement, including 17 Islamic deputies and deputies Tujan Faysal, Bassam Haddadin, Mustafa Shunaykat, Khalil Haddadin, and 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi.

In a statement to AL-MAJD, an Islamic parliamentary source said that the deputies of the Islamic Movement—six of whom did not attend the opening session in which the speech from the throne was delivered the day before yesterday—are seriously thinking of resigning from the House of Representatives so as not to become "false witness" as he said. [passage omitted]

Political Party Urges People To Topple Treaty

JN2310152394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Amman, the Jordanian Pan-Arab Action Front Party has said that the Jordanian Government has overturned the nation's principles, relinquished the whole of Palestine, and accepted the Zionist conditions of capitulation by signing the so-called peace treaty and ignoring the feelings and interests of the Arab people in Jordan and the Arab masses.

In a statement issued today, the party pointed out that the Jordanian Government has done all this while talking about commitment to principles, rights, and sanctities; while filling the world with allegations that it adheres to the democratic option; and while preventing the people, press, parties, trade unions, and even the House of Representatives from acquainting themselves with what is going on.

The statement also says that the Jordanian House of Representatives will today discuss a fateful agreement about which it knows only very little from the newspapers, adding that the House was called into session just a few days before the signing ceremony. This means, the statement says, that the discussion will not take more than one or two days despite the serious nature of the agreement.

The party urged the mobilization of the people's ranks to resist and topple the agreement, which conflicts with the nation's principles, violates its sovereignty, relinquishes its rights and sanctities, links Jordan with the Zionist entity, isolates it from the entire Arab world, and exposes the interests of its sons to numerous dangers.

Demonstrations For, Against Treaty Reported

JN2410184494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Students staged two demonstrations at the University of Jordan today. One of the demonstrations was in support of the peace process while the other was in protest against this process. The students, who participated in the first demonstration, expressed their support for the peace treaty which restored Jordanian rights to land and water. Meanwhile, the protesters expressed their rejection of peace solutions.

The demonstrators dispersed after a short time.

Sit-In To Be Staged During Parliament Session

JN2410184094 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A symbolic sit-in will be staged in front of the Parliament Building in Amman at 1000 tomorrow. The sit-in will take place during a Parliament session to protest the capitulationist treaty which the Jordanian Government is signing with the Zionist entity and to hold the deputies responsible before history and their people and nation if this treaty is approved. Participants in the sit-in will hand letters to members of Parliament urging them not to approve the treaty.

The parties that will take part in the sit-in are the Islamic Action Front, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Popular Unity Party, Hashd [the Jordanian People's Democratic Party], the Pan-Arab Action Front, the Socialist Democratic Party, and the Arab Popular Committee for Resisting Submission and Normalization.

Clinton To Address Special Parliament Session

JN2410123594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Parliament is set to hold a session next Wednesday [26 October] at 8 pm Jordan local time at the request of the prime minister.

His majesty the king will attend the meeting together with U.S. President Bill Clinton who will address the joint session of the Parliament.

Al-Mu'ashshir on Clinton's Visit, Itinerary

JN2410132094 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arrangements are going ahead for the signing of the full treaty between Jordan and Israel on the southern border between the two countries. Spokesman of the Jordanian delegation [to the peace talks] Marwan al-Mu'ashshir spoke to Radio Jordan about the signing ceremony.

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording, in progress] ...on Wednesday [26 October] at the Wadi al-'Arabah crossing point. And it will be attended by almost 5,000 people. President Clinton will arrive at al-'Aqabah from Egypt on Wednesday. He will be, of course, hosted by His Majesty King Husayn.

The ceremony [as heard] will be signed by the prime minister of Jordan and the prime minister of Israel in the presence of his majesty and President Clinton. There will be a number of dignitaries invited, including Mr. Warren Christopher, and Mr. Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister.

After the signing ceremony, his majesty, President Clinton, and Prime Minister Rabin will give speeches, after which Mr. Rabin will go back to Israel and his majesty will accompany his guest, President Clinton, to Amman, where the President will address a joint session of Parliament Wednesday night, and then would depart Jordan the next morning. [end recording]

Government To Launch 'Quick, Preventive Operations'

JN2110172394 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 22-28 Oct 94 p 12

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic groups in the Arab world have moved from the stage of truce and opposition through peaceful statements to the stage of confrontation and armed resistance in order to abort articles in the secret agreements between Arab countries and Israel that aim to wipe out the Islamic movement in the Arab world as a whole. [passage omitted]

SHIHAN learned from its informed sources that the Jordanian security organs are prepared to face any possibility following the signing of the [Jordanian-Israeli] treaty. A state of emergency has been declared among security organs, and the government is expected to launch quick, preventive operations such as arresting some suspects and keeping an eye on houses and offices of Islamic organizations, especially the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic Action Front.

Those acquainted with the Jordanian affairs do not rule out that the security organs will interrogate Islamic members of the House of Representatives as a preventive measure. At the same time, a Jordanian official, who refused to be identified, ruled out the possiblility of the Islamic organizations carrying out any terrorist operation in the country for more than one reason, most important is that Jordan is their political headquarters, and if this headquarters is lost, the Islamic movements will lose their political platform, and this is something they will not risk. The second reason is that the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan had declared that it will resist the agreement, but does not intend at all to resist it by force. According to the official, this movement was not trained in terrorism.

In spite of the reassurances, there is a certain discomfort regarding the situation, especially since the government did not make a truce with the Islamists on the subject of the treaty, which is the point of disagreement. It is clear that the government has no intention of giving them the chance to veto or criticize the agreement. One of the Islamic Movement's House of Representatives member said the government will impose the agreement on us and will not accept our opinion.

IAF Deputy Addresses 'Open Letter' to Clinton

JN2410183394 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 12

["An Open Letter to President Clinton" by Dr. Hammam Sa'id, Islamic Action Front, IAF, deputy at the Jordanian House of Representatives; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] To Mr. Bill Clinton, President of the United States of America. Greetings.

I am writing this open letter to you because I will not attend the signing ceremony in Wadi al-'Arabah and because I will not receive you in the Jordanian House of Representatives. I will not welcome you nor will many free people in this country. In order for my ideas not to remain confined to myself, I decided to convey them to you. I do not think that someone like you would ignore such a letter.

President, we know that the American people had staged a liberation revolution against British colonialism, which dominated the United States despite the fact that the British and American peoples shared the same origin and language. If the British remained in the United States until today, expelled the American people from their country, and concluded a treaty like this treaty [the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty], and if one of my people— becoming president of the United Arab and Islamic States—blessed occupation and aggression and supported the British in occupying your land, expelling your people, uprooting your trees, demolishing your houses, smashing your skulls, killing fetuses, and settling aliens in your country, if all this happened, you would not receive such a president because by doing so you would be unfaithful to your country, nation, and history.

President, you are aware that at the beginning of this century Palestine was populated; it was not a land without people. It was placed, afterward, under the British mandate which colonized us as it colonized you and occupied our land as it did your land. You rebelled against it just as we did. Then, it gave our land to the Jews and supported the Jewish immigration. The British state, the state of mandate and trusteeship, was the state of aggression and injustice. While the number of Jews [in Palestine] early this century did not exceed a few thousands, the British opened the doors of immigration for them and placed all the capabilities of the then Great Britain at their disposal. This is the beginning of the story whose chapters you are concluding today!!!

President, we are the owners of Haifa, Yafo, Lod, Ramla, 'Asqalan [Ashqelon], Safad [Zefat], Tiberias, and Nazareth. We are also the owners of Janin, Nabulus, Hebron, Gaza, and Jericho. Now, we are refugees all over the world. We are witnesses to the world's biggest ever forgery and deception. Do you accept for yourself to act as a false witness?

President, those who are currently living in our land have come from all parts of the globe. They came from London, Paris, Moscow, Washington, Budapest, Vienna, and other parts.

President, now you come to the region to put an end to the conflict by a treaty, which you and your likes call a peace treaty. We call it a treaty of capitulation and submission. This treaty is based on the consecration of falsehood, aggression, occupation, and usurpation. You call this international legitimacy, and this is another type of forgery and aggression. You have involved yourself and the American people as partners in this aggression and injustice. With your deed today you want to plant an alien and rejected entity in our country.

President, you will be wrong if you think that peace can be imposed on peoples from the American and Jewish perspective. You will also be wrong if you think such treaties will put an end to the conflict. On the contrary, I tell you that it is these treaties that will trigger conflict and inflame the battle, because the sons of Palestine, thanks to you, have entered a critical stage. Therefore, they have prepared their coffins and sought martyrdom!! You have to seriously think of the Tel Aviv operation, and of the previous al-Khudayrah [Hadera] and al-'Affulah ['Afula] operations. Can you, o president, prevent the people of Palestine from dying???

President, with your visit, and with the measures taken by your Administration and previous administrations, you have engaged yourselves in a confrontation with Muslims everywhere. You are aware that the holy Koran, God's book, is recited by 1.5 billion world Muslims, who believe that Palestine is an Islamic waqf [endowment], that it is a sacred and blessed land, and that it is the place from which Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, ascended to heaven. This Koran reminds them day and night that the Jews are their staunchest enemies. It also reminds them that there will be a decisive, conclusive round of fighting with the Jews. The Koran has given an account of the Israelis' mischief on earth and how they will be elated with mighty arrogance. The event in which you are participating is only a picture of this false arrogance.

President, the Islamic nation rejects all your plans and it will never accept them. It will never succumb. Should you live long, and go back to my letter years from now, you will discover just how wrong and unfair you were. Then you would realize that you have done injustice to yourself and your people.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Stabbed Tourist Said 'American Jew Living in Israel'

JN2410182594

[Editorial Report] Amman JORDAN TIMES in English on 24 October carries on page 3 the following REUTER-datelined report on the stabbing of a tourist in Amman on 23 October: "Amman (R)—A Jordanian who stabbed an American tourist four days before a peace treaty with Israel is concluded was apparently angered because the man said he was from Israel, Jordanian officials said on Sunday.

"He said he did not want to see a Jewish tourist in Jordan and that is why he committed his act," said an official. The official said security for tourists was being stepped up.

"Dov Friedman, 24, and American Jew living in Israel was stabbed in the back on Saturday by Ra'id Isma'il, 27. Mr. Friedman, riding on a bus with his girlfriend, suffered only scratches from the three blows and did not need hospitalisation.

"The lone assailant, who told interrogators he acted on the spur of the moment, was caught immediately after the attack near the main inter-city taxi stand.

"The stabbing was the first such reported incident since several attacks on tourists following the killing of about 30 Arabs by an Israeli settler in Hebron in the occupied West Bank last February.

"Even Jordanians who support the peace treaty say they find it difficult to instantly change their attitude toward Israel after decades of hostility."

None of the Jordanian Arabic dailies published today report that the stabbed tourist is "an American Jew living in Israel."

Al-Hariri Comments on Clinton's Tour of Region

NC2210122094 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri received a delegation from the Editors' Association Council headed by Milhim Karam. He told them that what has happened in the south confirms that Israel finds itself in a difficult situation and is doing this because it feels cornered and to make Lebanon pay the bill for its mistake.

He stressed the need for endorsing Resolution 425 as a basic condition for launching any settlement plan in the peace talks. Al-Hariri believes that Clinton's visit to the region is an attempt to push the peace process. He also sees Clinton's meeting with the Syrian president as a confirmation of Syria's effective role—and thus Lebanon's—in the peace process. He noted that the omission of Lebanon from Clinton's schedule is not an important issue. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri on Peace Process, Construction

NC2210075594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated that Lebanon's current problems are a result of the Israeli occupation of territory in the south and the peace process, which has slowed down despite our efforts to emerge from this dark tunnel. He said that Lebanon is exerting efforts and seeking the help of friendly Arab countries, such as Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, as well as friends in foreign countries who are following up on the peace process. He noted that Israel is stalling, refuses to withdraw, and fails to respond positively to the efforts being made toward this goal.

In a statement published in AKHBAR AL-YAWM newspaper on Saturday, al-Hariri voiced his hope that Egypt will play an active role in expediting the peace process, particularly because we have full trust in President Husni Mubarak's ability and sincere desire for the liberation of south Lebanon and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 so that Lebanon can remove the effects of the aggression that has wrought destruction over 17 years. He said that Lebanon must exert arduous political and economic efforts to emerge from the debris of the war with the help of brothers in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and other friendly countries. He stressed that Lebanon aspires to end the war and agree on a permanent peace.

Al-Hariri pointed out that the Lebanese Government has made great achievements in constitutional and social areas and that its steps were approved by the Chamber of Deputies. He noted that the economic plans have been recently referred to the Chamber of Deputies. He stressed that Lebanon's doors are open to Egyptian companies to participate in reconstruction. He said: We welcome coordination with the Egyptian Government to conclude agreements and chart a formula for cooperation in this field. He hoped that Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi will set a date for a meeting of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Lebanese Committee. He stressed that Lebanon currently enjoys financial and economic stability despite the effects of the war that destroyed a great deal of the country. He pointed out that 30 percent of the 10-year development budget has been earmarked to solve urgent social problems. He said that part of the budget had been allocated to establish a complete utility network. He said that Lebanon has no debts and has a huge reconstruction plan and that is why the government resorted to issuing treasury bonds, acquiring domestic and foreign loans, requesting aid, and entering into international agreements.

Al-Hariri Opposes Reduction in UNIFIL Troops

NC2410143194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has declared Lebanon's rejection of any attempt to reduce the size of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] in south Lebanon or to reduce its role before it completes the task entrusted to it by the Security Council resolutions.

This is stated in a cable that Prime Minister al-Hariri sent today to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali congratulating him on UN Day. The prime minister urged Dr. Butrus-Ghali to work to implement Resolution 425 and to ask Israel to comply with the UN Charter.

Buwayz Expresses Hope for Clinton's Visit

NC2410224394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that any positive development in regional peace is bound to have a positive effect on Lebanon.

He said that the aggression against the south was, in this case, a reaction to a domestic operation and events that Lebanon had nothing to do with. He added that the south continues to be used to serve purposes that are not connected to the Lebanese situation. He expressed the hope that President Bill Clinton's visit to the region would be a fundamental turning point in the peace process.

The foreign minister returned to Beirut from Cyprus tonight following a visit of several days at the invitation of his Cypriot counterpart during which he held talks on the current international situation and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Junblatt on Palestinian Cause, Separate Deals

NC2310142794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Refugee Affairs Walid Junblatt has said that the suicide operation in Tel

Aviv confirms that even if an agreement were reached to return the occupied territories in south Lebanon and the Golan under conditions preserving Arab dignity and rejecting concessions, the most important point, that of the Palestinian people, would remain unresolved. He added that the responsibility lies with those who deviated from the Madrid course and engaged in separate deals, such as the Gaza-Jericho accord and the Jordanian-Israeli accord.

Deputy Chairman of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan has asked the three top leaders [President al-Hirawi, Speaker Birri, and Prime Minister al-Hariri] to hold consultations over the developments in the region and adopt an appropriate stance to protect Lebanon and its people. He stressed the need for continued coordination with Syria.

Shaykh Qabalan urged U.S. President Bill Clinton to visit Lebanon during his tour of the region, namely the south, to see the massacres being committed against its inhabitants by Israel.

Hizballah Chief: Islamic Action Will Foil Settlement

NC2210075894 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has stressed that Hizballah is watching the movement of the Zionist-U.S. plan in the region because it essentially concerns the party and the future of Lebanon. He said: There is no settlement; we view what is happening as a surrender and a reconciliation being imposed on governments and regimes.

In an interview conducted by our radio, his eminence added: As for us, we are concentrating on resistance jihad work while others are entertaining themselves in night clubs and at parties. We are making efforts to achieve further awakening of the nation. He stressed that eyes are turned to and hopes are pinned on the Islamic action in Palestine. The Islamic Palestinian action, he explained, has grown to be the spearhead for foiling the U.S.-Israeli plan of capitulation and humiliation. Nasrallah urged all honorable and free Islamists and others to work to foil the surrender plan. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Chief on Shelling Israel, Clinton's Trip

NC2410080494 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has stressed that the Islamic Resistance is committed to its duty of shelling the Zionist settlements in the northern part of occupied Palestine whenever [Lebanese] civilians are shelled. He said the Islamic Resistance, which began in Lebanon with small groups that had a strong jihad spirit and managed to liberate a great deal of land, has become Lebanon's strongest card against the usurper entity.

Speaking in a symposium organized by Hizballah in Ba'labakk, Nasrallah said: All current political and other practices in Lebanon are more of a waste of time than real political action needed to introduce changes in the country. The general atmosphere, therefore, shows that this is a stage of preparation and readiness for the next stage.

His eminence said the future of this country and people is still [word indistinct] and needs rational and enlightened political conduct at the public level. He added: We have not seen action in Lebanon tailored for the homeland and the people. Government actions are fashioned for leaders and for [words indistinct] groups, which is the main problem in Lebanon's political life. He called on everyone in Lebanon to establish a movement to confront the upcoming danger of the peace settlement.

On jihad operations in occupied Palestine, the Hizballah secretary general said they reflect the will of resistance, confrontation, and liberation and are a source of hope after the series of defeats and surrender by the Arab regimes. He saw in the promotion of jihad work to the level of martyrdom-seeking operations a lofty value in jihad education. He said full separation of everything Arab and Palestinian and everything Jewish will lead to the collapse of the Zionist plan in the region.

On the objective of Clinton's visit to the region, Nasrallah said any American political failure will have negative repercussions on U.S. influence in the world. The visit, therefore, is meant to give the settlement a new momentum, especially now that the United States is on the doorstep of an election.

Clinton Said Ready To Push for 'Tangible' Progress

JN2410194394 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton today said he will visit Syria because a comprehensive peace in the Middle East requires peace on the Syrian track.

REUTER cited Clinton as saying in an interview with a Cleveland radio station that a comprehensive peace in the region will be a large achievement for the United States and the entire world. President Clinton said the main purpose of his tour is to stand by the side of the proponents of a comprehensive Middle East peace.

In this context, U.S. politicians stressed that Syria is the most important station in U.S. President Bill Clinton's tour of the region. The news agency QUDS PRESS said political observers believe that President Bill Clinton has decided to throw all his weight behind removing the hurdles which have thus far prevented tangible progress on the Syrian track,.

It is noteworthy that Clinton will leave for the Middle East tomorrow on a four-day tour of Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Israel.

U.S. Effort Said Needed To Get Israeli Response

JN2510080394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial headlined "The Problem Is in Israel," AL-THAWRAH says: Syria has offered everything to ensure the needed momentum to advance the peace process, and it has been, and still is, waiting for U.S. efforts to make Israel respond to the peace requirements, the principles of the U.S. initiative, and the bases of Madrid conference.

The newspaper adds: Syria has emphasized the credibility of its peaceful positions and its commitment to implementing international resolutions and meeting the peace requirements. On the other hand, the maneuvering Israeli position continues to be based on intransigence and rejection of the requisites of just and comprehensive peace. Israel is following the policy of concluding partial settlements and agreements that do not establish peace and do not ensure security and stability.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: As is known, the problem is not in Syria, and the gap, which U.S. Secretary of State Christopher spoke about, was not caused by Syria but by the Israeli position which rejects full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. This is the condition for establishing peace based on justice and comprehensiveness.

No Peace Said Possible While Golan Occupied

JN2410140994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "With The Return Of All Territory, The Desired Peace Can Be Achieved," AL-BA'TH says: He who thinks that Syria does not wish to see peace established in the region is very mistaken. However, he who thinks that Syria may accept any kind of peace is also mistaken. Syria has stressed before, and always stresses, that it wants a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper notes that Syria responded favorably to the peace initiatives, particularly those that were based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. It stresses that in the Washington peace talks, Syria was the party most eager to discuss the substance of the Arab-Israeli conflict because it realizes that any solution that does not address the substance of the conflict will remain an incomplete solution that cannot achieve the desired peace.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria has said, and continues to say that a genuine peace hinges on the return of the occupied territory in full, while Israel is evading the issue of withdrawal from the territory and is raising the slogan "peace for peace." Syria's argument is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and on the U.S. peace initiative, which stipulates "land for peace." Unmistakably, Israel's argument has, thus far, been the opposite of what was said above.

The paper says this confirms that Israel only wants the kind of peace that agrees with its plans and objectives. It wants peace treaties like those which it signed with the PLO and Jordan and which guarantee that it gets everything it wants.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria wants a comprehensive, genuine peace that would return land to its owners and preserve the Arabs' dignity. We will continue to reject the partial and separate solutions, which Israel is seeking to promote, and we will never deal with them because the solutions which Israel propose are only an attempt to circumvent the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land for peace formula. Consequently, they torpedo the U.S. initiative, on whose basis the peace process was launched.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: Now is the time for everyone to realize that there can be no peace of any kind in the region while our territory is occupied. This is a legitimate right of ours. The return of all the territory to its legitimate owners is, and will remain, the key for a genuine peace that can provide security and stability to all.

Finnish Defense Minister Arrives on Visit

JN2210192194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Finnish Defense Minister Elisabeth Rehn and her delegation arrived in Damascus this evening. Leading those who welcomed her at Damascus International Airport were Lieutenant General

Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan; Lieutenant General Hasan Turkmani, deputy chief of the general staff; and a number of senior General Command officers. [passage omitted]

Meets Defense Minister

JN2310200394 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received in his office at 1100 today Finnish Defense Minister Elisabeth Rehn and her accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan and Lieutenant General Hasan Turkumani, deputy chiefs of staff, and the Finnish ambassador in Damascus.

Discussions dealt with relations between the two friendly armies and ways of promoting them.

UN Successes, Failures Noted on Anniversary

JN2310174894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria has expressed hope that the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations will further enforce the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, enhance UN credibility so that it can confront attempts to impose selective concepts and double criteria on its missions in violation of the principle of equality among states in terms of sovereignty, to achieve the hopes that nations pin on it, and to bring about justice, peace, cooperation, and prosperity for all mankind.

In a statement today, marking UN Day on 24 October, and at the beginning of celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, the Foreign Ministry said that over the past five decades, Syria has participated in drawing up, signing, and implementing many international treaties, documents, and resolutions issued by the United Nations in various fields such as liquidating colonialism; fighting racial discrimination and racial segregation policies; arms reduction; removal of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons; drawing up the features of a new world economic order that takes into account the interests of developing countries; reinforcing respect for civilian, political, economic, and social human rights, especially those of workers, women, and children; developing international law; and promoting international cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, health, the environment, education, culture, sciences, and others.

The statement adds that on this occasion, Syria cannot but express its appreciation for and gratitude to the UN technical programs which have offered Syria valuable services over the past years to carry out its economic and social plans in various fields. On the other hand, Syria cannot but note with regret the UN failure to force Israel to withdraw from the Syrian, Palestinian, and other Arab territories which it has been occupying since 1967; to guarantee the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self- determination, and the establishment of their own independent state in implementation of many relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, although Israel flagrantly refuses to abide by these resolutions and violates the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

The statement also says that in its capacity as one of the 50 states which took part in formulating the UN Charter in 1945 and in establishing the United Nations, Syria is participating today, along with the rest of the world, in celebrations to mark this occasion. The statement adds that Syria believes in the UN principles and objectives because the United Nations was established in light of these principles and objectives to include peace-loving states; to save generations from the disasters of wars; to guarantee peoples' right to self-determination; to enhance respect for human rights and the basic liberties without prejudice and discrimination; to prevent aggression; to safeguard the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence of the member states; to prevent interference in their domestic affairs under any pretext; to achieve the principle of equality among states, whether small or big, in terms of sovereignty; to develop nations economically and socially; to promote respect for the principles of international law and humanitarian international law; and to preserve world peace and security.

Head of Jewish Community Cited on Ties With Israel

MM2110152794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Oct 94 p 2

[Report on interview with Rabbi of the Jewish community in Syria Ibrahim al-Hamra by Mahmud Abu-'Id in Holon, south of Tel Aviv; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem—Rabbi of the Jewish community in Syria Ibrahim al-Hamra has said that Syrian Jews have obtained all their rights from the Syrian Government and that the reports of their mistreatment are untrue. He said that these reports are designed for media consumption.

The statements made by al-Hamra, who arrived in Israel early in the week, came in an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in his residence in the town of Holon, south of Tel Aviv. [passage omitted]

In his statements al-Hamra said that he was happy to come to Israel, saying that his arrival there would not have taken place had it not been for the launch of the peace process and Syria's serious willingness to engage in this process. [passage omitted]

He added: "Some 80,000 Syrian Jews have left Syria for Israel since 1948. They are living now in Israel. Only 300 Jews are still in Syria." [passage omitted]

On the reasons that prompted him to come to Israel and whether emigration is the reason, he said: "The reason for my coming to Israel is purely religious. Every Jew is urged to come to his state. However, I would like to point here to my hope that the near future will be auspicious and that borders and barriers between all the region's states and Israel will be removed." He added: "I feel that my presence in Israel will seriously serve the peace process between Syria and Israel."

Al-Hamra said that he has not emigrated to Israel. "I have not bid farewell to the Syrian leadership—which means that I will meet with them soon. And I maintain cordial relations with the political leaderships in both Israel and Syria, and I feel that talking with them both will positively affect and advance the peace process."

He added: "Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar"s meeting with leading Israeli journalists was evidence of the Syrian leadership's flexibility and serious readiness for peace."

On his position on the Syrian-Israeli negotiation dispute, al-Hamra said that the negotiations should be conducted directly between the two parties. He stressed that these negotiations should be based on the land for peace principle. However, he added: "Although I am not privy to the atmosphere of the negotiation process, I am convinced that an agreement will be signed in the immediate future."

Al-Hamra broached the Palestinian-Israel agreement, saying that "it has opened the way to the other agreements with the Arab states." He said: "I fully support that agreement." However, he added: "It is not a final agreement, but a step toward achieving a real peace between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples."

Al-Hamra renewed his call for holding a political dialogue with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—the call he launched following the bus blast in the main square in Tel Aviv the day before yesterday. He said: "Political and religious leaderships are urged to unite their efforts to put an end to the shedding of innocent people's blood." [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Rabbani, Hekmatyar Reportedly Agree to Cease-Fire

LD2410211894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to the latest reports, Kabul's warring factions have agreed to a 24-hour cease-fire in the Afghan capital, following mediation efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic delegation,

Central News Unit reports that following talks by Mir-Mahmud Musavi, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's special envoy, with President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Golboddin Hekmatyar, and a number of leaders of rival groups, the 24-hour ceasefire will become effective at 1600 [time as heard] on Tuesday [25 October].

The Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic delegation has been in Kabul since last week in an effort to bring peace and mutual understanding between the Afghan rival groups.

Government Aircraft Downed Over Sheberghan

LD2410140394 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Sukhoi Su-22 jet aircraft of the Moscow-Paris servant coalition's air force was shot down by the forces of the High Coordination Council [HCC]. A responsible source of the HCC forces command told a RPA [Radio Paygham-e Azadi] correspondent in a radio contact that the day before yesterday a Su-22 jet aircraft belonging to the coalition and flown by Abdol Sabur, a famous pilot of Najib's communist regime, appeared at 1805 in Sheberghan's airspace and came under attack from antiaircraft weapons of the HCC and was destroyed before carrying out its mission.

The report adds that the pilot ejected and came down by parachute and was captured alive by the HCC forces. The source added that General Abdol Sabur, a reliable pilot belonging to [Ahmad Shah] Mas'ud's air force, is responsible for the bombing of mojahedin bases in various parts of the country after his graduation from the Air Force University, and is one of the notorious enemies of our oppressed and mojahed nation. According to another report, Mas'ud, (?head) of the Supervisory Council, expressed great sorrow for the loss of the pilot. The morale of the coalition's pilots has been very much weakened and they are refusing to undertake combat flights.

Dozens of Casualties in Rocket Attack on Kabul

LD2410152694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kabul city today came under the most ruthless barrage of rockets by the forces of Golboddin. Reports received by the Bakhtar Information Agency say that the city of Kabul came under a severe and ruthless attack by the militia during the course of the day. As a result, dozens of the noble residents of Kabul were either martyred or injured. Among the heart-rending incidents in the city, two shocking events have been reported. Passengers in two taxis in Kololaposhta Square and on a bus in the city center were all martyred or injured.

The current round of rocket attacks on the residential areas of the city have been going on for four days now. [passage indistinct]

Bangladesh

Zia 'Shocked' at 'Senseless Act' in Sri Lanka

BK2410154794 Hong Kong AFP in English 1423 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Oct 24 (AFP)—Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Monday [24 October] condemned the assassination of Sri Lankan opposition leader and presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayke, calling terrorism the most serious threat to democracy.

"Bangladesh ... strongly believes that terrorism is one of the most serious threats to democratic institutions in our countries," Zia said in a message to her Sri Lankan counterpart, Chandrika Kumaratunga.

She said she was deeply shocked to learn of the attack, in which a suicide bomber killed Dissanayke and 56 others Monday at campaign rally in Colombo.

Zia strongly condemned the "senseless and brutal act" and conveyed her condolences to members of the bereaved families.

Students Ransack Government Office During March

BK2410145094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1425 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Oct 24 (AFP)—Demonstrating students exploded home-made bombs and ransacked a government office on Monday [24 October] in a southwestern Bangladesh district during a mourning march, the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) news agency said.

The demonstrators, suspected to be supporters of the Moslem fundamentalist Islami Chatra Shibir (ICS), ransacked a government office in the city of Khulna as they carried the body of one of their leaders for burial, it said.

ICS leader Abul Kashem Pathan was killed and scores of people were injured Sunday during a fierce gun battle with student supporters of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), it said.

One of the injured students died Monday of bullet wounds, it added.

It was unclear what sparked the clashes or if Khulna's mayor was in the office at the time of the attack. Local officials could not be reached for comment.

ICS, the student-wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, called for a half-day general strike Tuesday in Khulna, where UNB said tensions were running high.

India

New Delhi 'Unreservedly' Condemns Sri Lanka Killing

BK2410155994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has expressed shock at the bomb blast which killed the presidential candidate, Gamini Dissanayake and many others. In a message to the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Rao conveyed his condolence to the government of Sri Lanka and the people.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that India unreservedly condemn the dastardly act.

Spokesman Responds to Perry Remarks in Beijing

BK2110160894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has reiterated its stand to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said this is quite contrary to Pakistan's nuclear adventurism, brandishing threats of use of nuclear weapons. He was responding to a query on the U.S. defense secretary, Mr. William Perry's, address in Beijing expressing concern over a nuclear weapons race in the subcontinent. The spokesman said there is no question of any such race.

Minister on Readiness To Discuss Kashmir Autonomy

BK2310162894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Rajesh Pilot, today said the government has an open mind on discussing the issue of autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir with political parties. Talking to PTI in Jammu, he said the quantum of autonomy for the state could be discussed with political parties at the state and national levels. He said the government is committed to restore a democratically elected government in the state shortly. Earlier, addressing a meeting at Vijaypur, he warned Pakistan to desist from interfering in India's internal affairs. Referring to the situation in Kashmir, he said the people are fed up with the criminalization of militancy there.

The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has asked the state administration to remain vigilant against Pakistan's attempt to disrupt the process of restoration of normalcy in the state. He was addressing commissioners and secretaries to the state government and senior officers of security forces in Srinagar yesterday. General Rao said though the situation has visibly improved there is no room for complacency.

Court Reaches Decision in Temple-Mosque Issue

Ex-Uttar Pradesh Chief Convicted

BK2410120094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Supreme Court has rejected the maintainability of the presidential reference under Article 143. The constitution bench was headed by the chief justice, Mr. Justice Venkatachaliah. The government has sought the court's opinion on a single point whether a temple existed at the site on which the demolished structure was situated. Following the judgment, all the cases pending in the lower courts could be revived.

In a separate hearing, the Supreme Court also convicted the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, for the grossest contempt of court in allowing construction of a concrete platform near the disputed structure in Ayodhya in July 1992. A division bench of the apex court in its order today sentenced Mr. Kalyan Singh to a day's symbolic imprisonment and a fine of 2,000 rupees. The bench was headed by the chief justice, Mr. M.N. Venkatachaliah.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the CPI have welcomed the Supreme Court's conviction of the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh. The CPI-M politburo member, Mr. Prakash Karat, said in a statement though symbolic, the sentence upholds the rule of the land. The CPI leader, Mr. M. Farooqi, said the judgment is correct as Mr. Kalyan Singh failed to keep his promise in the Ayodhya dispute.

The Janata Dal and the Samajwadi Party have welcomed the Supreme Court's judgment on the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh. The deputy leader of the Janata Dal in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Srikanth Jaina, said the judgment came on expected lines as the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] defied the court's order despite giving a categorical assurance of not defying the rule of law. The Samajwadi Party general secretary, Mr. Satyapal Malik, said the judgment will enhance the people's faith in the judiciary.

Parties React

BK2410160294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Supreme Court today upheld the validity of the Ayodhya Land Acquisition Act. It has, however, revived the pending title suits on the disputed area for adjudication. Consequently, the apex court declined to answer the presidential reference under Article 143 on the Ayodhya issue. The constitution bench headed by the chief justice, Mr. M.N. Venkatachaliah, observed that the presidential reference is now superfluous and unnecessary. By the reference, the government had sought the opinion of the court on whether a Hindu temple or structure existed at the site prior to the construction of the Babri mosque. On the issue of the disputed area, the court in a majority judgment, said the central government will be vested with the powers of a statutory receiver. Its duty is maintenance of status quo till a final decision is given in the adjudication proceedings.

Earlier in the day, the apex court convicted the former chief minister of U.P. [Uttar Pradesh], Mr. Kalyan Singh, for the contempt of court and allowing construction near the disputed structure in Ayodhya. The court headed by the chief justice, Mr. Justice Venkatachaliah, sentenced him imprisonment for one day and a fine of 2,000 rupees. The court also held guilty some state government officers for willfully disobeying its orders of maintaining status quo at the disputed site. Briefing the newsmen, the official spokesman said that the detailed judgment is yet to be received by the government. He said the government will abide by the ruling of the apex court.

The Congress-I says it stands by its earlier announcement that the party will accept in principle whatever be the judgment on the Ayodhya issue. The party spokesman, Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar, told newspersons in New Delhi that the legal cell of the Congress-I will study implications of the Supreme Court verdict. He termed as token punishment the prison sentence and fine imposed on Mr. Kalyan Singh.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] said that the decision of the Supreme Court on the presidential reference on Ayodhya vindicates its stand. The party spokesman, Mr. K.L. Sharma, told reporters that Ayodhya issue has now gone to square one. He said the BJP will accept the judgment convicting the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh. He said his party is studying all judgments from the legal angle.

The All India Babri Masjid Action Committee has said that these judgments would strengthen the rule of law, the dignity of the judiciary, and the secular fabric of the nation. It welcomed the judgment on the contempt case against Mr. Kalyan Singh.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has said that the Supreme Court decision has protected the democratic values. The Janata Dal, the Samajwadi Party, the Samata Party, the CPI [Communist Party of India], and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] have also welcomed the verdict on the former U.P. Chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh.

Troops Enter Ayodhya After Verdict

BK2410161894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] AYODHYA, India, Oct 24 (AFP)—Paramilitary troops poured into this northern Indian town after the country's highest court on Monday [24 October] refused to referee a Hindu-Muslim feud over a mosque that was razed by Hindu fanatics two years ago, officials said.

Kumar Arvind Singh Deo, the city's administrator, said some 2,000 paramilitary troops were being brought here as a precaution against possible violence following the court's verdict Monday.

The Supreme Court rejected a request by New Delhi to determine the validity of a Hindu claim that the razed 16th-century Babri mosque had stood on the ruins of a Hindu temple destroyed by Muslim invaders.

"There is absolute calm and no adverse reaction (to the judgement)," Deo told reporters from Faizabad, administrative headquarters of this Hindu pilgrim town, 420 kilometres (252 miles) north of New Delhi.

But he said it was too early to "predict" the fallout in Ayodhya of the Supreme Court verdict, handed down by a five-judge voting bench.

He said 1,200 troops were already in position and added that some 2,000 personnel were also on their way here as a precaution against a violent reaction to Monday's court ruling.

Local Hindu religious and political leaders who are in the forefront of a campaign to build a temple on the ruins of the fallen mosque were not immediately available for comments on the court ruling in New Delhi.

Hindu zealots on December 6, 1992 attacked and destroyed the mosque which they claim was built by the Moghul rulers in India's early Islamic era on the ruins of a temple to their warrior-god, Lord Rama.

Some 2,000 people died in ensuing Hindu-Muslim rioting, the bloodiest since the independence and partition of the subcontinent in 1947.

The Indian government, whose efforts for a negotiated Hindu- Muslim settlement on the dispute failed, referred the dispute to arbitration by the Supreme Court.

The court also handed over to the government a 67-acre (28-hectare) plot of land here on which the Hindu fundamentalists want the Rama temple built.

The site would rest in the government's hands until rival Hindu- Muslim claims to its owership are settled, the court said, but added that a makeshift temple erected on it after the mosque's destruction would remained untouched.

16 'Militants' Killed in Kashmir; Arms Recovered

BK2510091594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 16 militants have been killed in separate encounters with security forces during the last 24 hours. According to an official spokesman, a large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered.

Iran

Velayati Still Planning To Visit Iraq

LD2410085094 Tehran IRNA in English 0752 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif says that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's plan to visit Iraq has so far not changed. Interviewed by the English-language daily "IRAN NEWS", printed Monday, Zarif said that Iran expected the Iraqi Government to cooperate on the issues of prisoners of war and those missing in action and "to set aside its policy of denial regarding these two subjects."

As for Iraq's role in the regional peace equation, the daily quoted Zarif as saying that regional security required cooperation and participation of each and every regional country adding that ommission of any regional state in this equation could jeopardize the zone's security. To establish security in the region, argued the official, the regional states should avoid creation of blocs and grouping against one another.

Referring to Bill Clinton's visit to the Middle East, Zarif predicted that as far as the rights of the Palestinians were not restored and the aggression on the Arab territories was not uprooted, such visits "will not be effective."

As for al-Asad-Clinton negotiations, Zarif said: "We are pursuing these negotiations and are waiting to see its results. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Touching upon the issue of the three Iranian islands, the foreign ministry official told the paper that Iran's sovereignty over the islands was not in dispute and there was no base nor any reason to refer the case to the international court of justice.

Zarif regretted that the emirates "has not responded positively to the idea of direct talks in order to resolve this misunderstanding."

"We believe that negotiations in good faith between the two countries would be beneficial to both sides," Zarif said adding that Iran regretted the fact that "some countries in the region are in the illusion that they can buy security or gain advantages through reliance on foreign powers."

The daily quoted the official as saying that the Security Council has become a tool in the hands of some permanent members while it should actually be a means to serve the goals and interests of the General Assembly in accordance with the U.N. Charter.

Larijani on Baghdad's Motives in Recent Actions

NC2210114894 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Oct 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Mohammad Javad Larijani, Supreme Council for National Security adviser and Foreign Ministry official: "Iraq: Yet Another Dangerous Game"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. Observing the current Baghdad regime's behavior shows that the Iraqi statesmen are always ready to enter new risky games. But then they face a problem when it comes to ending the game! Although the only worthwhile thing in a game is to win, initiative is also something to be considered! What Baghdad did recently was this: It sent a number of well-armed divisions in a surprise move toward the Kuwaiti border. Why? Was there a political motive in mind? There are no signs that there was. Therefore, the objective behind this military move should be said to be 100 percent political.

2. What was Iraq's objective behind its recent attempt? I think that the simplest and clearest explanation is that when Iraq lost hope of breaking the economic blockade in the near future it tried to create a balance between pressure on it and on Kuwait and the region. Iraq's recent attempt has completely upset the situation in Kuwait and has thrown the regional Arab governments off their course, while casting a shadow of crisis and threat on Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, and other shaykhdoms.

The Baghdad statesmen say: We have implemented all the parts of the UN Security Council resolutions except the delineation of the border with Kuwait. We will do this only when the sanctions on Iraq are lifted. The pressure that has been inflicted on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will definitely make America heed these remarks.

3. Why was America's propaganda-military reaction so extensive? The reason is that it was a matter of prestige, since after receiving billions of dollars from the regional shaykhs, America has still not been able to ensure their security! And each day America asks for one fee and tribute after another from these governments—from relations with Israel to the starting of so-called democratic reforms! Of course, now that America has come to the region, we should see what other opportunities have been created for it.

4. Up to this point, Baghdad had started the game well, this was only thanks to the nature (and the high price) of

taking a big risk. But the important thing is the next phase. Under the label of ensuring Kuwaiti security in the future, America has proposed creating a prohibited zone for Iraqi forces in the south. If this plan is fulfilled, a significant blow will be inflicted on the current rule, and it is then that one can dare say that the game started with big risks and is ending with disgrace!

5. Can America create such a zone? Does it need a UN Security Council decision? This will definitely not be for the sake of the United Nations legitimizing something, since it is not allowed to legitimize an action, but for the sake of demagogy.

France's opposition to this plan is America's major problem. Russia's stance is far more complicated. Moscow has sent a delegation to Baghdad and wants a compromise plan. Naturally, the mere fact that this has been done is considered a positive step by Iraq. Therefore, it [not further specified] is keeping the issue of adopting a stance on the plan to create a prohibited zone still active and is trying to sell it to the other side—America, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia—unless it has completely given up hopes for the success of its efforts. [sentence as published] Probably, this is what has made Washington not immediately reject Moscow's mediation efforts, fearing that if it does Moscow's negative stance on the "prohibited" area will come to light.

In short, victory does not seem to be easy either for Baghdad or for Washington in the second phase of the game and Baghdad has the upper hand to a certain extent.

'Split' Seen in Tehran Over Relations With Baghdad

MM2510082094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Oct 94 p1

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Tehran yesterday canceled a previously announced visit by a high-level delegation to the Iraqi capital Baghdad to pave the way for a subsequent visit by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The cancellation coincided with confirmation of reports that Iran was about to launch military attacks inside Iraqi territory.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the visit was cancelled and no alternative date was set for it. He added that the decision "was made at the highest level," but he declined to give the reasons which necessitated that decision. It should be noted, however, that Iran has, in recent weeks, reinforced its forces all along the border with Iraq with the clear aim of attacking bases of the armed opposition groups in exile supported by the Iraqi authorities.

According to informed sources in the Iranian capital, the Iraqi authorities warned Tehran through the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad that any military operation inside Iraqi territory would be met with "an extremely strong and immediate response."

Observers indicate that Tehran has recently been sending conflicting signals to Baghdad about bilateral relations and they see that as an indication of a split within the Iranian leadership on that issue. Some leading mullahs openly call for a strategic alliance with Baghdad against what they consider to be a bloc led by the United States in the region, but others believe that Iran should join the camp opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to secure a chance to influence any future situation in Iraq.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry had, for almost two years, been steadily preparing for the visit but it was finally decided that it would be pointless to make the visit while Iranian forces were preparing to storm Iraqi territory to hit the bases of the Iranian armed opposition there.

Majles Speaker Criticizes U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD2310111894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the start of today's open session of the Majles, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri spoke about the recent movements of America and the Zionist regime in the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East as another plot and design, and called on the countries of the region to maintain vigilance in the face of these plots and not to surrender to wretchedness.

The Majles speaker said: As a sympathetic neighbor, we advise the countries of the region not to legitimize the Zionist regime and the U.S. troop presence in the region by their wrong actions.

Nateq-Nuri added: Through various designs, America is trying to stabilize Israel in the region and to create a deputy for itself in the region.

He pointed out that the Middle East peace talks have not reached any positive achievements for the Palestinians or other Islamic countries, and have only legitimized the Zionist regime and opened the arena to the designs and crimes of the Zionists.

Expressing regret and criticism over the deal made by some Arab governments with the Zionist regime, the head of the legislature added: It is preposterous that a regime which has no legitimacy has been established through coercion and aggression, and that has usurped Islamic lands, is today claiming to combat violations of human rights in the region.

South African Foreign Minister Arrives

Opens Talks With Velayati

LD2410175694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo arrived in Tehran today. In his first round of talks with Foreign Minister Velayati he called for an expansion of ties between the two countries.

Praising the Islamic Republic of Iran for its constructive stance toward the recent developments in South Africa, he called for Iran's active participation in the construction of South Africa.

Expressing congratulations for the coming into power of the antiracist government in South Africa, Mr. Velayati said exchanges of delegations would strengthen economic, political and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Urges Expanding Relations

LD2510092494 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, OANA-IRNA—South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo arrived here Monday afternoon at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In their first round of talks, the two foreign ministers explored avenues for the expansion of bilateral economic, commercial and technical cooperation, the Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" reported.

Outlining policies of the new government in South Africa towards international developments, Nzo voiced his country's readiness to upgrade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to Iran's constructive policy regarding domestic developments in South Africa, he called for Iran's active participation in his country's reconstruction, the daily added.

Congratulating formation of a non-racist government in South Africa, Velayati announced Iran's readiness to cooperate with that country in all fields.

Velayati told his South African counterpart that exchange of delegations would strengthen economic, diplomatic and cultural relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the English-language daily "TEHRAN TIMES" wrote that relations between Tehran and Johannesburg, cut off in the aftermath of the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, were resumed after installation of an all-race government in South Africa last year.

Another English daily "IRAN NEWS" also reported that Nzo is expected to meet with Iranian leaders, including President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Velayati Interviewed on Regional Cooperation

LD2210135794 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati says that with regards to Iran's ties with Southeast Asian countries and those of Central Asia and Caucasus Tehran can play the role of a linking ring in connecting these countries together.

In an exclusive interview published in the Saturday issue of the English-language daily "TEHRAN TIMES" Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who accompanied President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his recent Asian tour elaborated on the results of the visit and other key regional issues.

President Rafsanjani and his high-ranking entourage visited Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia.

Velayati said that geopolitically Iran has a central position in the region which is acknowledged by everyone. He said that the secretariat of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] is in Tehran and that of the Caspian Sea littoral states cooperation organization will be set up in Tehran too.

Iran's presence in the Southeast Asian region is more than any other Persian Gulf or Central Asian state, said Velayati adding that Iran has concluded numerous agreements with the regional countries.

Iran plays the same role in Central Asia and Caucasus, he said adding that Tehran has embassies in all these countries. Moreover, Tehran's mutual cooperation with these states are more than any other regional country.

"Therefore," he stressed, "it is quite natural for Iran to play the role of a linking ring in connecting the Southeast Asian region to Central Asia and Caucasus."

"On a question whether the trip was deemed as a measure to strengthen the Tehran-Islamabad-New Delhi-Beijing axis, Velayati who accompanied the president in his tour said that Iran maintains cordial relations with these countries. But, he said, "Our relations with the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is independent of our relations with those countries."

Turning to the importance of Southeast Asia with a population of more than 300 million people in the world, he said other regional countries would probably join the ASEAN in the future and named Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Burma as instances.

"Indeed, our relations with the ASEAN countries is an independent chapter in our foreign policy," he emphasized.

Asked about cooperation between the ASEAN and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) vis-a-vis the multinationals, Velayati said, "the more effort we put in, the more profit we acquire and through cooperation we can safeguard our own interest s."

The foreign minister stressed that these countries should not stop their activities on the pretext that multinationals are active. he reminded that the Islamic revolution occurred despite the opposition of big powers and it has become more powerful since its victory.

Both ASEAN and ECO were small organizations at the beginning but advanced over the years, he said adding that Iran can play a crucial role in connecting the two.

On the unity of the Islamic world as an emerging pole in the post-Cold War era, Velayati said, "it is not likely that the world of Islam would be able to form a single, united pole comprising all Islamic countries in the near future."

"A united Islamic world is not a utopian idea, rather it is a reality and can materialize in the future," he said. It is one of Iran's desires but we cannot foresee a single united Islamic world in the near future, he added.

Velayati touched on different groupings within the Islamic world in different parts of the world and expressed hope that someday it may become feasible to link them to each other.

He mentioned the ASEAN, ECO, Arab League and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council saying that different groups of Islamic countries have been formed for more serious and precise cooperation among themselves.

In response to a question on ties with Egypt, he said Tehran and Cairo maintain cultural, scientific relations as well as economic ties to some extent.

"Egypt was indebted to Iran and repaid its debt by exporting certain commodities to Iran," he said adding, "the normalization of our relations with Egypt depends on how the two sides can maintain their standpoints while taking steps towards this goal."

The foreign minister stressed that having scientific, cultural and economic relations does not necessarily mean the establishment of political relations.

Iran and Egypt have interest sections in the capitals of both the countries, he added.

Asked about the stance of the three Southeast Asian nations on the developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said that they acknowledged the stance taken by the recent Islamabad meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). However, the Malaysian stance was closer to Iran, he said.

Velayati welcomed the proposal made by the Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamed for setting up an Islamic news agency to thwart the Western cultural assault.

He also hailed Muslim countries for their attempts to expand cooperation among themselves on the basis of their commonalities. he stressed that differences should not hinder them from cooperating in certain areas.

On Iran's reaction towards recognition of the Zionist regime by some Muslim countries, Velayati said Iran's standpoint towards Palestine is what the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni had announced and what the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has said.

"We maintain this standpoint even though it is a unique stance in the world," he stressed adding, "Iran has maintained an exclusive and unique standpoint among the Muslim countries towards the issue of Palestine."

Habibi Meets Visiting Foreign Ministry Officials

Moldovan Deputy Foreign Minister

LD2210165694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting today with Mr. Alexandru Burian, deputy foreign minister of Moldova, First Vice President Habibi stressed the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's strategic role in linking the countries of Eastern Europe, such as Moldova, to the countries of Central Asia, and to China and the Indian Ocean.

The Moldovan deputy foreign minister, for his part, added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is considered to be one of the main and important countries in terms of Moldova's foreign policy of establishing and consolidating political and economic relations.

The Moldovan deputy foreign minister also met with Foreign Minister Velayati today to discuss bilateral cooperation and the expansion of economic, political, and cultural ties.

Austrian Deputy Foreign Minister

LD2210213994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. (Schulemberg), the Austrian deputy foreign minister, met First Vice President Hasan Habibi in Tehran today. He described Iran as a great and important country in the region and in the world and said: It is very important for us to become more familiar with the viewpoints of the Islamic Republic of Iran on regional and international developments. He spoke of concern for the destiny of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a common point shared by Iran and Austria and added: Austria believes that international peace and stability cannot occur in a piecemeal and regional fashion; they must be international issues and we always warned the West of this. [passage omitted]

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Habibi, for his part, referred to Iran and Austria's common viewpoints on many international issues and said: The level of cooperation between the two countries is good in the political and economic fields, but there is potential on both sides for expanding ties even further. We must seek new areas for increasing our coopertion.

The first vice president criticised the biased and one-sided attitude of some Western countries to the issue of human rights and said: The massacre of an independent nation at the very heart of Europe and indifference to human values in Bosnia is clear evidence, exposing their false claims in defense of human rights.

Foreign Ministry Rejects Israeli 'Accusations'

LD2210181294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry, while rejecting accusations of the Zionist regime officials regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for terrorism, said officials of the Zionist regime were among the world's best known terrorist faces.

This spokesman added: After revelations regarding the ugly and inhumane plots of the Zionist regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Argentine affair, such accusations by the terrorists ruling Tel Aviv are no longer effective.

He warned against such intrigue, which seems to be a prelude to intensifying terrorist activities by this regime.

'Zionist Circles' Said Blocking U.S. Report

LD2410213394 Tehran IRNA in English 2051 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—While little time remains to the scheduled report by the U.S. State Department to the Congress on the terrorist status of Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), the Zionist circles in Congress and the press agencies are making every endeavour to divert the direction and the results of the report.

The U.S. State Department has described the MKO as a terrorist organization and the U.S. Congress commissioned the State Department to provide a report on the status of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) and the actions taken by the grouplet.

The State Department has assigned undersecretary of state, Robert Pelletreau to provide the scheduled report.

Boston-based daily, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR published an article in its latest issue and pointed to the pressures of the Zionist circles exerted upon the State Department to divert the direction of the report.

Some months ago, Pelletreau gave a report to the Congress concerning relations between the two countries and said that the U.S. Administration was not after overthrowing of Iranian Government, because, Tehran's government was a lasting and permanent phenomenon.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR said that Pelletreau's statement and his opposition to negotiate with the representatives of the MKO made the MKO anxious that the report of the U.S. State Department would be against the MKO.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR said that the MKO's participation in suppressing the Kurds popular uprising against Baghdad government in 1991 has dissatisfied the U.S. State Department.

The MKO took the role of special forces of Saddam Husayn and committed heinous atrocities against the Kurds in northern Iraq killing thousands of the innocent people in return for the assistance received from Saddam Husayn.

According to western reports, the MKO members have stationed in the Ba'thist garrisons under Iraqi Army's protection because they are afraid of suffering a backlash from the Iraqi underground for their support of Saddam.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR said that the MKO is being supported by a certain wing of the Congress and added that the MKO has supporters in Washingtion who are congressmen.

The influence exerted in the process of decision making in the U.S. has led Washington not to take action against the activities of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in the United States despite the stance declared by the State Department on the terrorist status of the MKO. The state of insecurity in Iraq and the lack of interest on the part of the European countries has led the MKO to turn to the U.S. in order to take advantage of the influence of the Zionists to be given asylum.

UAE Criticized for Hiring British Tornado Jets

LD2510110594 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—An Iranian military official here Monday termed the hiring of some 12 Tornado aircraft by the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as a move to prepare grounds for the presence of British forces in the region.

The London-based DAILY TELEGRAPH Saturday reported on an agreement reached between the UAE and Britain for the hiring of 12 Tornado jet-fighters by the Emirates.

The official said that the UAE army has no experience in engineering maintainance of the Tornado fighters and thus needs presence of British [Royal] Air Force military advisors.

The UAE and other regional countries should have realized that their huge military purchases and hiring of various aircraft from the West would entail nothing but preservation of the interests of others, he said. The official noted that regional countries should rely on their own capabilities and friendly ties between themselves in order to safeguard stability and security of the Persian Gulf region. He said that flights of the hired jet-fighters will be scheduled as such to obtain information to preserve the British interests.

British military advisors have repeatedly announced that the UAE is not competent to train its personnel in technical field.

The agreement was reached following a series of visits to the region of high-ranking U.S. and British political and military officials. It is believed that President Bill Clinton's forthcoming visit to the region is mainaly focused on strengthening the position of the Zionist regime and encouraging regional countries to make huge arms purchases from western countries.

However, Western media reports say that arms manufacturing factories in the United States and Britain would sustain considerable losses if the Persian Gulf regional states stop their arms purchases.

Meanwhile, the Zionist regime has also shown the green light to the military purchases of the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

President's Visit to Turkmenistan Previewed

LD2410073494 Tehran IRNA in English 0641 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 24 Oct (IRNA)—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is due to leave for Turkmenistan Wednesday [26 October] at the official invitation of his Turkmen counterpart Saparmurad Niyazov.

The morning daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" Monday reported that bilateral relations as well as transfer of Turkmen gas and oil pipelines to Europe via Iran will be among topics to be discussed by the two heads of state.

Meanwhile, the English-language daily "IRAN NEWS" also wrote that Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi is expected to arrive in Ashgabat later in the day to make preparations for the president's visit.

President Rafsanjani, Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel are scheduled to attend Turkmenistan's independence day celebrations Thursday, the paper added.

Turkmenistan's oil exploration and production project will be completed by a consortium made up of Iran, Turkmenistan and Russia operating in the Caspian Sea close to Turkmenistan's shore, said the daily.

The gas project was finalized by Rafsanjani and Niyazov in Tehran last September while preliminary agreements were reached by the two sides regarding the oil pipeline.

The export route of Turkmen oil to Europe is not yet finalized, the article said adding that the two routes being considered are through Turkey to the Black Sea, or through Iran to the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Iraqi Kurd Leader Thanks Tehran for Assistance

LD1910161194 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbaijan, Oct. 19, IRNA—Leader of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Masud Barzani said here Tuesday that he has travelled to Iran to express gratitude to the people and Government of Iran for their assistance to Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

The Islamic Republic's hosting of Iraqi refugees and immigrants over the past few years is a turning point in the history of Iraqi Kurdish people, he said.

The KDP leader said that it was a duty of the Iraqi Kurdish nation to be grateful to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Terming the outcome of his talks with Iranian officials as "very successful," Barezani said that Iranian authorities have agreed to continue their assistance to the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

He disclosed that leaders of all Iraqi opposition groups would soon participate in a conference to be held in Erbil in Iraq, to patch up their internal differences.

He said he had talks with leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) in Tehran in this regard.

Terming the situation in border between the Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey as "insecure", Barzani said residents of 300 Kurdish villages near border with Turkey have left their villages.

He expressed hope that with coming to power of a democratic regime in Iraq, the problems of the region would be solved.

The KDP leader said he attaches great importance to the security of Iranian regions bordering Iraqi Kurdistan and vowed he would never allow anybody to threaten the frontiers of the Islamic Republic from Iraqi Kurdistan.

Barzani arrived in this western provincial capital from Tehran Tuesday [18 October].

Embassy Denies Report on Supporting Terrorists

LD2210165394 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, Oct. 22, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in Ankara on Saturday refuted as "untrue" allegations raised by a Turkish daily against Iranian diplomats.

The Istanbul-based daily "HURRIYET" in its Thursday's issue claimed that a six-man group of an organization called Hezbollah accused of collaborating with Iran, intended to carry out terrorist acts in Turkey.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has time and again condemned any acts of terrorism under whatever guises.

The daily, without mentioning a source, claimed that the group whose members it said have been arrested intended to assassinate a manukian [as received] who runs a brothel in Istanbul. The Iranian embassy in a press release announced that raising such unfounded allegations aimed at marring the growing relations between Tehran and Ankara. It added that Turkish officials have repeatedly announced that ithere exist no security problems between Iran and Turkey. Such baseless allegations, it said, cannot have any adverse effects on the growing trend of relations between the two countries, it said. [as received]

The news published by HURRIYET has not been confirmed by any Turkish officials.

Unification of Ties With Europe, Japan Welcomed

LD2310222494 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1916 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After a short lapse in the Islamic Republic of Iran's trade relations with major countries in Asia and Europe, once again different countries in the world, including major industrial ones like Germany and Japan, have shown their willingness to invest and participate more in our country's economic development programs and intend to remove the existing obstacles standing in the way of this trend.

The German government-backed export credit guarantees, Hermes, has announced that it will insure all exports from German firms to Iran. The Japanese Government, too, is still insisting on continuing its financial and economic cooperation with Iran, and in the latest move, the Austrian Government has announced that it is prepared to participate in the Islamic Republic of Iran's second development plan.

It should be mentioned that the expansion of commercial and economic relations between Iran, Europe, and Japan is taking place at a time when Washington considers that its efforts to persuade the world's two major industrial powers to bring pressure to bear on Iran have failed. Meanwhile, Europe and Japan have told America that they will formulate their economic policies in accordance with their national interests and not on account of pressure from the United States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved a better standing in the world because of its very rich resources and reserves, its political stability, and important geographical, political, and economic position. On the one hand, Iran's historical and traditional relations with European countries and Japan necessitate the development of their mutual long-term bilateral relations by taking into account world conditions. On the other hand, Iran's position as an important political and economic power in the Middle East has prompted the countries of the world to strengthen their economic and political agreements with her. In this sense, these countries are trying to participate and cooperate actively in the reconstruction and development of Islamic Iran, and this is why they have so far responded negatively to America's demands. [passage omitted]

Europe and Japan's interest in increasing their economic and political cooperation with Iran is a telling reminder that in spite of propaganda by the White House, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to be the most stable country in the region and is regarded with seriousness in the international community by those industrial countries that are not pursuing hegemonistic policies.

It is clear that, in the midst of all this, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in its turn, welcomes the consolidation of bilateral trade and political agreements with these countries and also emphasizes the consolidation of fair relations within the framework of Iran's national interests.

Opening of Turkmenistan Gas Pipeline Hailed

LD2510091194 Tehran IRNA in English 0708 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—A morning English-language daily here Tuesday said that inauguration of Turkmenistan's gas pipeline reaching Europe via Iran would reduce the incentives of the U.S. and Europe for creating tension in the region, since Europe's oil and gas needs would be imported via this pipeline.

The "IRAN NEWS" referred in its editorial to the forthcoming visit to Turkmenistan of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to begin Wednesday, to attend Turkmenistan's independence day ceremonies and also inaugurate the pipeline along with his Turkmen and Turkish counterparts.

The paper pointed to the significance of the pipeline for the Central Asian states as it would boom their oil and gas-rich economies, and added that the pipeline demonstrated Iran's strategic position, as this country provided the most economical and secure route for the Central Asian countries to export gas to Europe.

"The transport of gas through Iran will be followed with the flow of oil from the same direction. Once the Central Asian countries' oil is consumed in Iran's northern refineries (in Tehran, Tabriz and Arak), Iran will be able to export its own crude oil from the Persian Gulf in the south, at reduced transport costs, in return for the supplies received from the Central Asian republics in the north."

The paper noted that the outstanding issue in this project was the "political security and political stability for the Central Asian countries and creation of favorable circumstances for them to improve their economic development plans."

It concluded by saying that realization of first gas and then the oil pipeline project, would serve as a "trunk vein" for Europe and its energy needs.

Tabataba'i Appointed Departmental Chief

LD2410145394 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—Kia Tabataba'i has been appointed as director general of

International Social Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Taba-taba'i formerly served as Iranian ambassador to Geneva and Moscow.

* Movement Claims Responsibility for Bombing

95LA0006B Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 16 Aug 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] In its issue last week the Arabic magazine AL-WASAT, published in London, wrote: "After the Islamic Movement of Iran claimed responsibility for bombing the Imam Reza shrine, reporters from this magazine met with Abu Bakr Khorasani, the official spokesman for this movement, in the city of Quetta, Pakistan, near the Iranian border, and interviewed him concerning the aforementioned movement and its goals and demands."

AL-WASAT wrote: The Islamic Movement of Iran is opposed to the Government of Iran. It engaged in peaceful opposition from the year 1981 up until the recent armed activities. This organization took responsibility for bombings in the municipality of Zahedan and several other places during the month of February, and it also took responsibility for the bombing at Imam Reza's shrine, which killed and wounded tens of people.

Based on the report in this publication: "The Islamic Movement of Iran is a Sunni and Baluchi movement that seeks the rights of Sunni Muslims in Iran."

Pakistan

Bhutto, Russian Team Discuss Economic Cooperation

BK1910134694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Russian Federation delegation headed by Mr. A.C. (Ogortsov), chairman of the State Committee on Mechanical Engineering, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. In the meeting, a number of new areas for cooperation were identified, including expansion of Pakistan Steel Mills at Karachi, hydroelectric power plants in the northern areas, production of agricultural implements in Pakistan, and construction of oil and gas pipelines from Turkmenistan to Pakistan. The meeting also reviewed possibilities of Russian participation in the hydroelectric power project in Pakistan. The prime minister informed the Russian minister that the government plans to provide 60,000 tractors on concessional price to farmers. The prime minister also drew attention to the increasing Indian brutalities and requested the Russian Government to use its influence with India to stop Indian army's repression in held Kashmir. Mr. (Ogortsov) presented 10 Russian tractors to the prime minister's flood relief fund on behalf of his government.

The ambassador of Kazakhstan, Mr. T.K. (Azmokhambitov), also called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today. Matters relating to business cooperation, including opening of Pakistan's trade centers in Kazakhstan, mutual exchanges of business delegation, and training of Kazakh artisans by their Pakistani counterparts, came under discussion during the meeting.

General: U.S. Has 'Deep Roots' in Government Offices

BK2410092694 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 24 Oct 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad,—Former chief of Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg has said that Americans have 'deep roots' in Pakistan's foreign office, ministry of economic affairs and even the "departments dealing with high-tech and defence". Accusing Pakistan leadership without discrimination of being in line with the US dictates, Beg believes that after a short break in 1965, the Americans had successfully revived their roots in Pakistani establishment in 1980-81.

In an unmask-the-past interview with monthly DIPLOMAT, General Beg refused to take the blame for picking Ghulum Ishaq Khan [GIK] saying that he would have invited any XYZ who happened to be there as the chairman of the Senate. "You can't say he was my choice", argued Beg adding that till 17th August, 1988, he had known "very little" about GIK. "Now, whether he was pro-American, whether he played the American game, it is for you and history to judge", observed the former military boss.

General Beg said Ghulam Ishaq Khan too was "wise enough to udnerstand the game as I was trying to tell my people but he was, I think, intelligent enough to maintain not only neutrality but totally side with Nawaz Sharif and his view point was not to oppose the Americans. That's how he conducted himself".

Azad Kashmir Prime Minister on Kashmir Issue

BK2210145594 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 22 Oct 94 pp 1, 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—Azad Kashmir Prime Minister [AJK PM] Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan Friday accused the Foreign Office of pleading the Kashmir cause in a half-hearted and ineffective manner and said that such an approach would damage the issue creating problems for Pakistan as well as the Kashmiri freedom fighters.

In an exclusive interview to a panel of newsmen representing PAKISTAN OBSERVER, Al Akhbar and weekly Hurmat, the Kashmiri leader asserted that Pakistan foreign policy was full of contradictions and confusion had been compounded worst through contradictory statements issued by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali, Nawahzada Nasrullah Khan, Chairman Kashmir Committee and the Foreign Office.

"We don't know the official policy of the government of Pakistan", said the AJK PM revealing that he had not been taken into confidence over the Pakistani move in General Assembly. "They are not ready to tolerate us or involve us internationally in efforts to expose India and force it to implement UN resolutions", he said.

AJK PM wanted to know what was the real Kashmir policy "Is it the one followed by Nawahzada Nasrullah Khan or the one propounded by the foreign minister?" asked he seeksing a clarification of the status of the Simla Agreement. He said "if the agreement is still valid, the whole exercise being undertaken by Nawahzada Sahib becomes irrelevant. We will also like to know whether Nawabzada is guiding the policy-makers or he himself is being guided."

Similarly he said the role of Azad Kashmir had not been specified in the present campaign. He complained that Kashmiris were not being given representation in the Pakistani delegations going abroad to plead their own case.

Sardar Qayyum was critical of a recent statement by the foreign minister, who he said negated the principled stand taken by Pakistan regarding implementation of the UN resolution in toto. He did not know whether Sardar Assef had been reprimanded by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for suggesting amendments in the resolution. "I simply cananot understand the logic behind such contradictions", he said and then himself added that they were either so naive or were hiding something from the nation.

He was of the view that the government should come out with facts and take the nation into confidence. He said the government would not respond to the queries raised by leader of the opposition Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif who was asked to lead Pakistani delegation at the UN. He accused Ms Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif as befooling the people.

None of them is serious both are scoring point against each other, he said regretting that a non-political approachs had been adopted towards a very serious issue.

He wanted to know as to why the Foreign Office had not so far responded to Indian move to hold elections in the occupied Kashmir and allegations being levelled against Pakistan by India internationally.

Sardar Qayyum stood for a logical analysis of the Kslhmir situation from a futuristic point of view. "We should keep in view the past but should not remain buried in the history ignoring the realities in which we are placed today and are going to face tomorrow. We must be ready to confront new ideas and situations," he said. At the same time, he was not in favour of wasting time on discussing ideas such as "third option" which he believed did not exist at all. He said it should be India that should come out with a solution or a fresh proposal but it was sos far not even ready to withdraw its claim on Kashmir and kept on describing it as its "Atoot Ang [integral spart]".

Is there any ray of hope? Sardar Qayyum responded with a big Yes adding that India had failed to suppress the indigenous and spontaneous freedom movement and had to spend billions of rupees on maintenance of the armed forces in the valley and explaining its case throughout the world. The Kashmir committees exist today in Britain and other European countries and it was in the interest of the world community to solve the issue in order to ensure peace in the region.

He said they were not pleading for a war between India and Pakistan and were seeking a political solution. He hoped that Indian leadership would muster courage and concede the people of Kashmir their right to self-determination as envisaged in the UN resolutios.

Army Begins To Seize Illegal Arms in Karachi

BK2410103094 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Oct 94 p 10

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—The troops began on Sunday [23 October] campaign to recover illicit weapons and nab wanted persons in Abbas Town and its adjoining localities. This follows a similar drive in several parts of the city.

A large number of troops, supported by armoured personnel carriers (APCs) cordoned off the localities in Galzar-i-Hitri Police Station area in the morning and conducted house-to-house search till evening. Shops, business centres and other institutions in the areas remained closed and the residents had to stay indoors till evening.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) sources, the Army during operation recovered 159 illegal weapons. The arms included 87 pistols/revolvers, 40 shotguns, three repeaters, 197-mm automatic rifles, nine locally-made Kalashnikovs and one 0:22 rifle. The troops also detained four persons for questioning, the sources said.

Meanwhile, uneasy calm prevailed in Baldia Town and Saeedabad in District West on Sunday after a day's violence which left four persons including a police constable dead and half a dozen wounded.

Shops, markets, schools and offices in these areas remained closed and roads presented a deserted look. The residents of the areas also preferred to remain indoors. Heavy contingents of Army, Rangers and police, deployed in these localities, were patrolling the area.

General Officer Commanding Maj-Gen Muhaminad Akram Khan, accompanied by Commissioner of Karachi, visited the disturbed areas and later held a meeting with the senior district administration officials.

The Deputy Commissioner, West, also held meetings in his office with members of different political and religious groups and urged them to work for maintenance of peace in the areas.

Earlier, the law enforcement agencies during night-long raids picked up over 100 persons mostly belonging to religious groups.

The local police arrested on Sunday 73 persons on various charges from different areas of the city and recovered one Kalashnikov, one rifle, two pistols, 125 grams of hashish, 58 grams of heroin, one stolen car, one taxi and foreign currency from possession of 19 of them. Thirty-nine among them were apprehended for breach of peace and others on different criminals charges, the police said.

Four persons including a woman and his son were killed in various incidents in the City on Sunday.

According to the details, four unidentified persons entered Bungalow No. C/71 in Block D. North Nazimabad and shot dead Asma Khatoon, 50 and her son Tanveerul Haq, 25. Later, the assailants drove away in a waiting car (W-8686).

The police said the murders were result of family feud. Their bodies were removed to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

In another incident, accused Toor Khan and his two other accomplices killed one Shirin Khan with the help of axes in Naimabad due to old enmity, the police said. His body was also taken to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for post-mortem.

In yet another incident, one Zaheeruddin died when the coach he was travelling overturned in Shahrah-e-Quadeen in Ferozabad area.

Sirajuddin and Javed were rushed to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital with fire-arm injuries from Gulzar-i-Hijri and Orangi Extension areas. They were wounded in sniper firing.

Meanwhile, New Town police found three-day-old body of a KDA employee lying in a lift at Civic Centre.

The police said that deceased Kafil Ahmed was stranded inside the lift on Thursday and died because of suffocation.

Government Denies UNHCR Request To Settle Refugees

BK2410095394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 24 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—The government of Pakistan has declined a UNHCR request and refused to grant permanent settlement to a large number of Afghan refugees who entered Pakistan during the prolonged Afghan Jehad.

This was communicated by a high-level official delegation representing Pakistan at the meeting of the executive committee of the UNHCR held in Geneva in the first week of this month, The delegation was headed by Secretary SAFRON [expansion unknown], Syed Saadat Ali Shah.

The idea of giving permanent settlement to Afghan refugees in Pakistan as an alternate solution of the refugees problem, was floated by the UNHCR.

Saadat Ali, while talking to The News here Sunday, said he told the executive committee of the UNHCR the move should not be considered as an alternate solution to the Afghan refugees problem. The meeting was told that the idea runs counter to the policy of the government of Pakistan.

"The refugees' stay in Pakistan is temporary and they will return to their country at first available opportunity", he said. "Pakistan, which is not a signatory to the Geneva convention of 1951 and the protocol of 1967 concerning the status of refugees, cannot accept the idea of local settlement of refugees for various socio- economic and political reasons" the executive committee of the UNHCR was told.

The presence of millions of Afghans and a large number of their livestock in Pakistan during the last 14 years have caused enormous ecological damage in vast areas in Pakistan. The environmental degradation is further accentuated by the discontinuation of kerosine oil for heating and cooking purposes to the Afghan refugees. He asked the UNHCR to play its role to motivate the donor community to come forward and provide generous financial assistance for rehabilitation of the damaged areas.

Saadat Ali said Pakistani's view is not only shared by the Afghan government but also by the refugees who are at present camped here.

He said during 1991, it was estimated by the UNHCR that various development projects costing 208 million dollars would be required to rehabilitate the affected areas. He said the requisite donors' support is still awaited to undertake the rehabilitation work.

Much against the expectation of Pakistan and UNHCR, 1.4 million refugees are still forced to live in camps in Pakistan, he told the meeting. Adding that though the refugees are dependent on the UNHCR and World Food Programme's assistance, the government unfortunately has been informed that the two donors plan to phase out their care, maintenance and feeding programme for refugees in Pakistan by September 1995.

Saadat Ali Shah said he told the UNHCR that the plan should not be implemented till the complete volunteer repatriation of refugees. He said the delegation also urged the international community to play its role in creating peaceful atomosphere in Afghanistan so that the refugees could go back to their homeland.

The delegation which also included the two chief commissioners of Afghan refugees, Islamabad, and Peshawar and a joint secretary of the SAFRON, also met the top officials of the UNHCR and conveyed the difficulties facing Pakistan.

Saadat Ali was optimistic about the outcome of their visit to Geneva and believed some positive developments to take place in a few months. He also expected the international community to continue its assistance to Pakistan for the Afghan refugees.

Barriers Affecting Defense Procurement Viewed

BK2010122894 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Oct 94 pp 1,5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct 19: Although the three defence services restated at the last Defence Committee of the cabinet (DCC) their requirements to meet their operational preparedness, the government finds it extremely difficult to make any break-through either with Russia or other European countries. The procurement of much needed military hardware and suitable fighter bomber is held up due to various political and financial constraints.

Pakistan has been evaluating and negotiating with Russia and France for a fighter bomber for some time. Well-informed defence sources state that while Russia has linked the defence cooperation with Pakistan to the release of POWs by Afghan leaders and solution of Tajik issue, France has expressed its inability to arrange supplier's credit for Mirages-2000-5. This matter was discussed at length at the last DCC meeting.

Besides reviewing the progress made so far on the issue of F-16s through quiet diplomacy the meeting is reported to have discussed the options of procuring SU-27 and Mirages-2000-5. It is believed that the meeting was informed about the difficulties being faced by the government over the procurement of a fighter bomber. While the Air Force urges the govt to take a final decision into the long delayed procurement of a fighter bomber. [sentence as published] Pakistan navy is reported to have requested the government for two additional frigates to increase its strength.

Although the source of supply is not known, well-informed defence sources indicate that Pakistan may lease SU-27 as a stop gap arrangement until either the 38 stranded F-16s are released or a deal is struck with Russia or France. To meet the military hardware crisis Pakistan has been exploring the south African defence market extensively for past three months.

Official sources in Islamabad admit that the delay in working out the dates for Premier Bhutto's impending visit to Moscow as also for the much awaited visit of the defence team of Russia to discuss the requirements of Pakistan Army and PAF, is mainly due to serious political impediments. They however refuse to specify the reasons behind the delay of the two important official visits. Even the Russian diplomats who appeared very enthusiastic a few weeks ago do not offer any comments. Even the departure of Pakistan envoy to Moscow has been delayed indefinitely.

According to the diplomatic sources the issue of POWs and those missing in action has assumed domestic political importance in Russia. Moscow has raised this issue with Islamabad on various occasions. Russia insists that Pakistan still maintains firm hold over various factions of Mujahideen and it is capable of playing a major role in the release of Russian PoWs. According to the Foreign Office sources Russia has communicated a list of 100 missing soldiers to Pakistani authorities. Similarly Moscow maintains that Pakistan should play a decisive role for restoration of peace in Tajikistan in order to make itself eligible for Russian weapons supply.

Well-informed defence sources state that in the absence of these prerequisites there is little chance of Pakistan making any break- through in defence cooperation even with Turkmenistan during the up- coming state visit by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. According to these sources though Turkmenistan has 900 MBTs [main battle tanks], 1800 AFVs [armored fighting vehicles] and 900 artillery pieces, to dispose of, it is obliged by a mutual defence treaty with Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyztan, not to take any decision on military relations without the prior approval of the collective security council. This council is yet to be established and is to comprise the defence and foreign ministers of these countries. These countries are also to establish a common air- defence network.

Defence sources, however, maintain that it is only Ukraine with which Pakistan could enter into a meaningful defence cooperation in future since it is not bound by any treaty. According to CFE [Conventional Armed Forces in Europe] treaty ceilings, Ukraine has 4,8080 MBTs, 5,050 AFVs, 4,040 artillery pieces, 1,090 combat aircraft, and 300 armed helicopters. On the nuclear side Ukraine originally had 46SS-24 ICBMs (with a total of 460 nuclear warheads) and 130 SS-19 ICBMs (780 warheads) as well as 416 nuclear gravity bombs and cruise missiles warheads based on its territory. By the end of the 1993 10 SS-19s were deactivated by removing their warheads.

Dur to budgetary reasons Ukraine forces have been cut to 250,000 including 150,000 in the army with 3,000 MBTs, 5,000 AFVs, and 3000 artillery pieces. Rest of the defence equipment is likely to be available to the customers who can pay cash. Ukraine air force has 4 fighter divisions and 6 fighter bomber divisions with 480 combat aircraft as well as 80 Il-78 transport. Control of this air power is disputed. There also was a bomber strike force with 20 Tu-160s, 20 Tu-93s, 50 Tu-16s 60 Tu-22, 125 SU-24 and 20-30 Il-76/78 tankers but according to some reports some heavy bombers were flown back to Russia by their crews.

Navy Launches Frigates Modernization Program

BK2310122994 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 23 Oct 94 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD—Pakistan Navy has launched a Frigates Modernization Programme (FMP) at an estimated cost of around 1.1 billion dollars to convert six newly purchased 25-year-old British type 21 vessels into battle worthy ships.

Highly-placed official sources told THE NEWS that the basic purpose of the FMP is to upgrade the frigates by equipping them with systems which increase the capability and performance of these ships. Pakistan had bought these old British naval vessels manufactured by the Southampton-based Vosper Thornycroft Limited of the United Kingdom. The cost of the six frigates was as low as can be imagined, because of their age and Pakistan has to spend a considerable amount to upgrade them. Pakistan decided to purchase these ships from the available source at a time when the United States asked for the return of its ships after the expiry of their lease period.

According to official sources, 800 million dollars worth five contracts to different companies have already been awarded and work to install these systems on the ships will start after some time.

The systems, which will be installed on the frigates are: Command and control System, Chic-in Weapon System (CIWS) to replace existing Sea Cat, early-warning system to replace VA 8/9 by VA-1, towed arrays and missile decoys, said the sources.

Companies like Celsius Technology, CSEE, Thomas-CSF and Thomas Sintra, the sources disclosed, were awarded contracts in early part of the second half of this year. However, in recent months, the Pakistan Navy had decided to appoint consultants for integration of these systems on the ships, official sources told THE NEWS. The consultancy package is worth 300 million dollars.

According to these sources, initially four companies—Signal of Netherlands, Davenport Maintenance Limited of United Kingdom, DCN- of France and St.John Shipbuilding Limited of Canada—were asked to submit their proposals for offering consultancy to Pakistan Navy. However, a month later Yarrow Shipbuilders through GES Marconi were also allowed to send their proposals for offering consultancy, added the sources.

A decision, the source said, is not yet taken and it is likely that the original manufacturer and designer of Frigate 21 type—Vosper Thornycroft of UK—will also be included in the list of those being considered for consultancy.

It may be mentioned the six type 21 frigates were purchased at a total cost of around 50 million dollars, but now the Pakistan Navy had to prepare a comprehensive plan to upgrade these frigates. Naval experts say that the implementation of the FMP will take a considerable period of time, though their upgradation will increase the capability of these ships manifold.

The Royal Navy had used these type 21 frigates and one of them was destroyed in the Falklands war. More over, further production of this class of vessels since long been stopped.

Sri Lanka

Colombo Orders Investigation Into Assassination

BK2510030394 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 0200 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is conducting a full inquiry into the cause of the bomb explosion [killing opposition presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake]. Minister for Information, Tourism, and Civil Aviation Dharmasiri Senanayake said that if the relatives of those killed in the explosion requested the services of foreign experts for further investigations, the government was ready to extend such facilities. The minister was speaking at a news conference yesterday which followed a special cabinet meeting. Comprehensive investigations have already started under the guidance of the government analysts. Full security has been provided at the site of the incident for the conduct of investigations. Mr. Senanayake said it was hoped to get an immediate police report on the incident.

Meanwhile, cabinet members, including the prime minister, yesterday paid the last respect to Mr. Dissanayake.

Mr. Senanayake said that [election] propaganda rallies of his party for the presidential polls will be suspended during the week.

The ministry secretary, Lionel Fernando, said that the trip to Jaffna for peace talks was canceled due to the latest situation in the country.

The minister, G.L. Peiris, was present at the news briefing.

A special team of the Criminal Investigation Department [CID] began their investigations into the bomb explosion which took place in Colombo yesterday. Investigations are being jointly conducted by the police and the CID with the assistance of the government medical officer and the government analysts. The DIG [Deputy Inspector General of Colombo] told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that several photographers of those who are wanted in connection with the bomb attack are now being identified. He said it will be easier for investigations if the public responds positively to identify the assassin. [Words indistinct] the bomb blast. Action has been taken to scientifically ascertain whether it was a man or woman. The police suspect the assassinations were carried out by a suicide bomber.

Government Imposes 'Indefinite' Night Curfew

BK2510084594 Hong Kong AFP in English 0727 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 25 (AFP)—Sri Lanka announced Tuesday [25 October] indefinite nationwide night curfews and said a state of emergency declared after the killing of opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake and 56 others will continue.

An overnight 24-hour curfew, imposed after Monday's bombing of the United National Party's presidential candidate, was eased at dawn Tuesday, but a statement issued later said a nighttime curfew will be reimposed.

"The curfew will be imposed islandwide from 8:00 p.m. (1430 gmt) till 4:00 a.m. (2230 gmt) daily until further notice with effect from tonight," the defence ministry said in a one-paragraph statement.

More vehicles were seen on the roads Tuesday and people reported for work as life began slowly to return to normal after Monday's devastating bomb attack, witnesses said.

Information Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake told reporters that the state of emergency giving wide powers to the military to arrest and detain suspects would be maintained. He also said extra security measures had been taken to protect political leaders.

"We have also stepped up security for Prime Minister (Chandrika Kumaratunga) as well as other opposition MPs who have asked for more bodyguards," Senanayake said after an emergency cabinet meeting.

Moderate Tamil leaders as well as defence officials have blamed the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for Monday's suspected suicide bombing. The guerrillas have denied responsibility.

The LTTE told reporters in the northern Jaffna town Monday that they were "shocked" by the killing. There was no reaction in Jaffna to the slaying of Dissanayake who was considered an outsider in the November 9 presidential election.

The UNP on Tuesday chose former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe, 44, to be their candidate in the November 9 poll against favourite Kumaratunga.

LTTE Reportedly 'Shocked' at Assassination

BK2410154494 Hong Kong AFP in English 1526 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 24 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan government Monday [24 October] declared a state of emergency and suspended peace talks with Tamil Tiger rebels following the killing of an opposition politician and 56 others at a campaign rally.

Information Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake said talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had been postponed indefinitely following the assassination of Gamini Dissanayake by a suspected LTTE suicide bomber.

He said that a resumption of talks with the separatist group would depend on the outcome of the assassination probe.

"We can't prejudge the outcome of the investigations. But I don't think we can start the talks now," Senanayake told reporters here after an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the fallout of Dissanayake's slaying.

He said a state of emergency clamped Monday would be maintained, giving wide powers to security forces to arrest and detain suspects but a curfew imposed earlier that day would be relaxed by dawn Tuesday.

"There are no reports of fresh violence from any part of the country. We imposed the curfew because of the very vulnerable situation. We did not want another 1983 riot," he said referring to the July 1983 anti-Tamil riots here.

Government negotiator Lionel Fernando said the bomb attack in Colombo's Thotalanga district would be a setback to the government's effort to seek an early end to ethnic bloodletting that has left over 30,000 dead since 1972.

Dissanayake's family said the killing was the work of the LTTE "to deprive the mainstream political parties of their leadership and thus weaken the entire political fabric of the nation."

The LTTE for its part told reporters returning from the rebel-held northern Jaffna town Monday that they were "shocked" by the killing and did not know who was responsible.

Moderate Tamils and defence officials, however, blamed the LTTE, which was accused of a similar attack that killed former president Ranasinghe Premadasa at a May Day rally here in May 1993.

"It is definitely the Tigers. I have no doubt. I don't think anyone else is capable," said Dharmalingam Sidhathan, a Tamil MP who represents the anti-LTTE Democratic People's Liberation Front (DPLF).

The powerful explosion which ripped through a crowded meeting of the opposition United National Party (UNP) appeared to be an LTTE trademark suicide attack, defence officials said.

Senanayake said the government would invite foreign investigators to probe the slaying if the bereaved family requested it.

The UNP also lost its general secretary, Gamini Wijesekara, and two former cabinet ministers. A ring of 18 bodyguards were also killed and dozens more were wounded in the midnight attack.

Despite the killings, the law insists that the presidential poll should go ahead as scheduled on November 9 and the UNP will have three days to name a substitute candidate, Elections Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva said.

Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga, who is also a candidate in the presidential election, paid respects to Dissanayake at his home and issued a brief statement vowing to bring those responsible for the killing to justice.

"The blast had come from the front of the audience. Those on the ground took the impact on their heads," an army commando said, adding that Dissanayake took shrapnel in his abdomen but his face was intact.

An eyewitness, K. Sarath, who was visibly shaken, said he heard a loud blast and saw 40 to 50 people on the UNP stage fall off. "He ended his speech saying 'I wanted to say good night. But now it is good morning.' "The time was 12.15 a.m.(1845 GMT) and a lot of crackers went off and suddenly all of us fell," Sarath told reporters at the Colombo general hospital.

Senanayake said the government had stepped up security for Dissanayake earlier this month after he declared that the LTTE was trying to kill him shortly after Kumaratunga initiated the peace process with the Tigers.

LTTE Denies Involvement

BK2510022794 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 0200 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Anton Balasingham of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] said in Jaffna yesterday that his organization was not involved in the explosion [that killed opposition presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake]. He said that he will not accept the responsibility and strongly rejected charges leveled against his organization. He was speaking to journalists in Jaffna who were there to report on the peace talks.

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